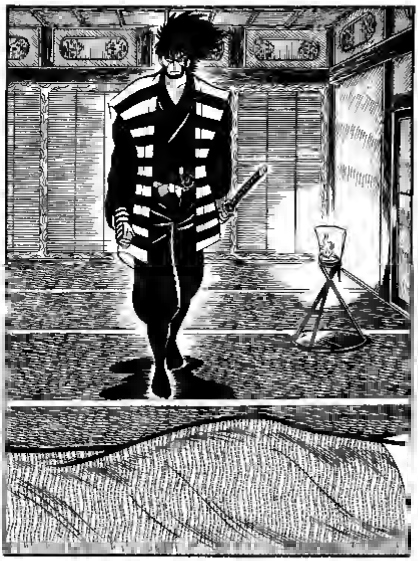
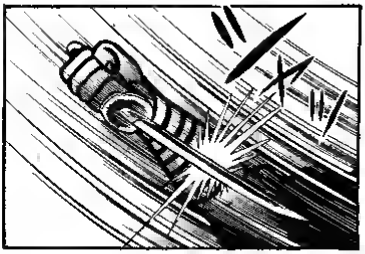
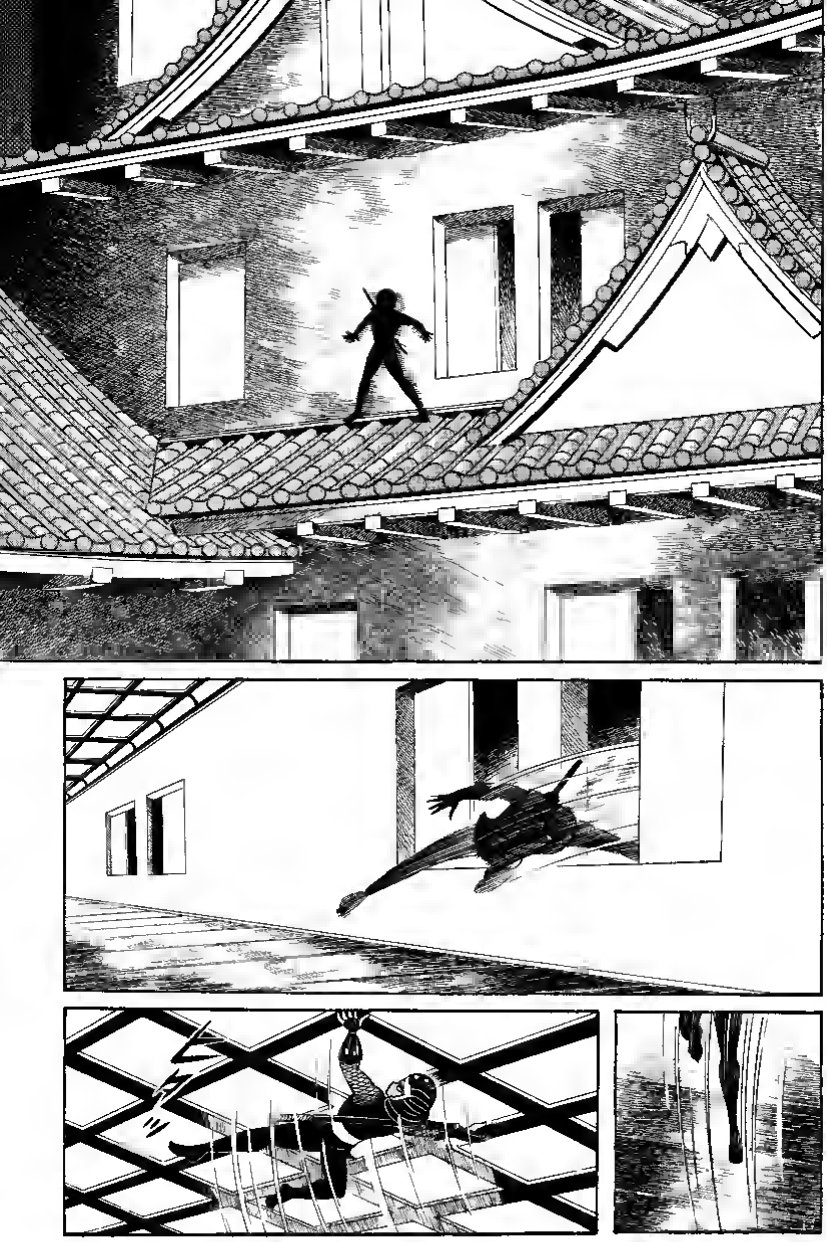
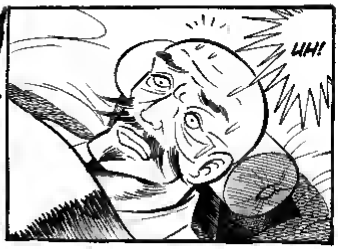






HM? WHAT IS IT?
HE LOOKS DIFFERENT, BUT THAT'S SABUROUTA'S VOICE...
WE CAN REST EASY WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENDING THE LORD'S PERSON.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.. SIR JINNAI IS CLOSE TO THE LORD'S SIDE TONIGHT, ISN'T HE ..?

JUST SIR JINNAI..
SIR JINNAI IS ENOUGH TO DEFEND THE LORD ON HIS OWN...
THAT'S RIGHT. AS LONG AS THAT DEATHLESS SWORDSMAN IS HERE, THE LORD'S LIFE IS SAFE.
SO, JINNAI IS THE ONLY ONE WITH DOUSAN...


UH!

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BUT WHY DID JINNAI SPARE ME...?
I'M SURE HE'S SAVED DOUSAN'S LIFE MANY TIMES.
DOUSAN TRUSTS JINNAI COMPL-ETELY.
HE CAN TAKE IT EASILY TONIGHT, WHILE HE'S THE ONLY GUARD!
IF JINNAI IS AFTER DOUSAN SAITOU'S HEAD,
COULD JINNAI BE AN ALLY...?
BUT, WOULD THE CHIEF REALLY GO THAT FAR...?
OR COULD IT BE ...?
JINNAI MUST BE TRUSTED ENOUGH TO SACRIFICE ALLIES TO HELP HIM.
IF THIS IS A TWO-LAYERED TRAP SO THAT THE CHIEF CAN TAKE DOUSAN'S HEAD...
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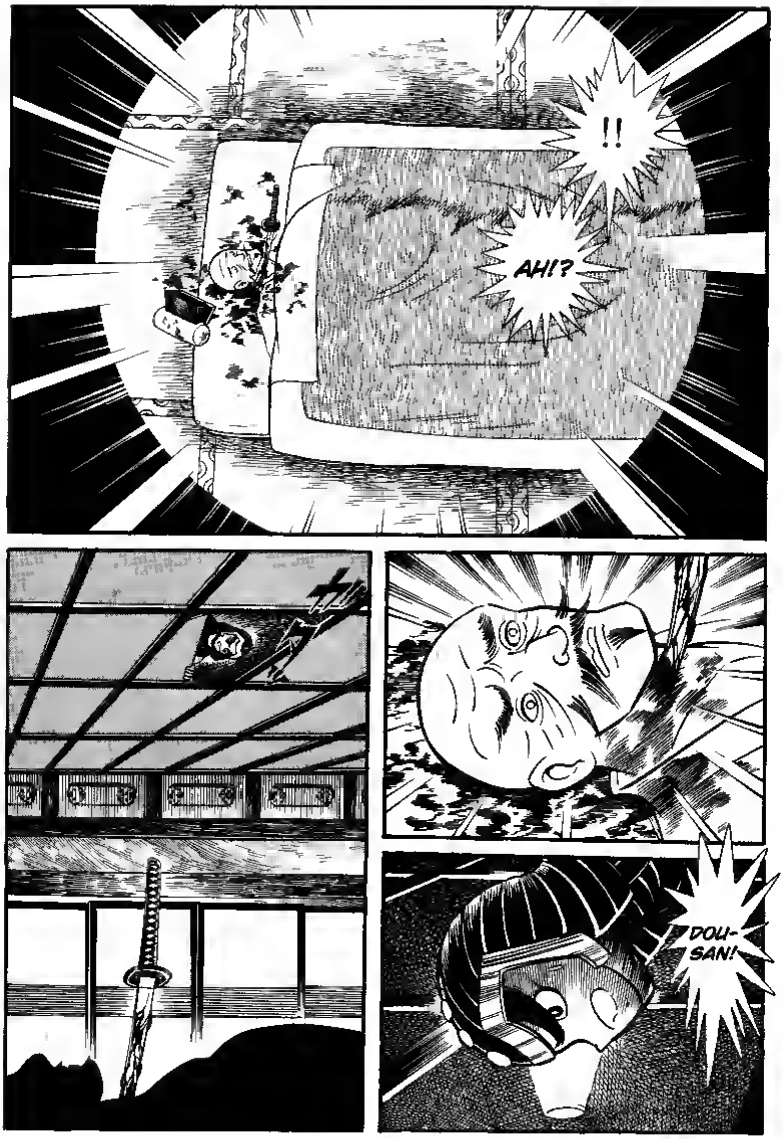
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AH!?
DOU-SAN!

COULD THIS BE JINNAI'S DOING?
HE'S BEEN MURDERED!
IT MUST BE! NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE DONE IT...
SO YOU'VE COME, SHISHIMARU!
HEH HEH HEH ...

FW-AH HA HA HA HA
MAN OF IGA, I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR AR-RIVAL!!
JIN-NAI !?
!!

SHI-SHIMARU! YOU WILL DIE HERE AS WELL!
WHAT!? JINNAI,
ARE YOU A NINJA TOO!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
HEH HEH HEH... I AM NOT JINNAI!
I ALREADY KILLED JINNAI DOUMA!
FU HA HA HA
I KILLED JINNAI WITH A CANNON AND TOOK HIS APPEARANCE!

BY KILLING YOU AS THE CULPRIT IN DOUSAN'S MURDER!
HEH HEH HEH HEH, I HAVE NO NEED TO GIVE MY NAME TO A MAN WHO WILL DIE HERE.
I'LL FINISH MY JOB...
OF COURSE, I DID IT TO TAKE DOUSAN'S HEAD!
JUST WHO ARE YOU !?
LET'S GO! SHISHIMARU, LET ME THANK YOU FOR PLUNGING ME INTO THAT HELL OF FLAMES!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T FINISH YOU OFF.

UUUH ...
HEH HEH HEH, DIE, SHISHI-MARU.
I'LL SHOW YOSHITATSU THAT I AM MORE CAPABLE THAN THE IGA!
WE BOTH AIMED TO TOPPLE DOUSAN, BUT...
ARE YOU A NINJA HIRED BY YOSHITATSU TOO?
I WON'T LOSE! NOT TO A KOUGA!
KOUGA
YOSHITATSU REALIZED HE COULD NOT DEPEND ON THE IGA AND TURNED TO US, THE SHINOBI OF KOUGA, FOR AID!

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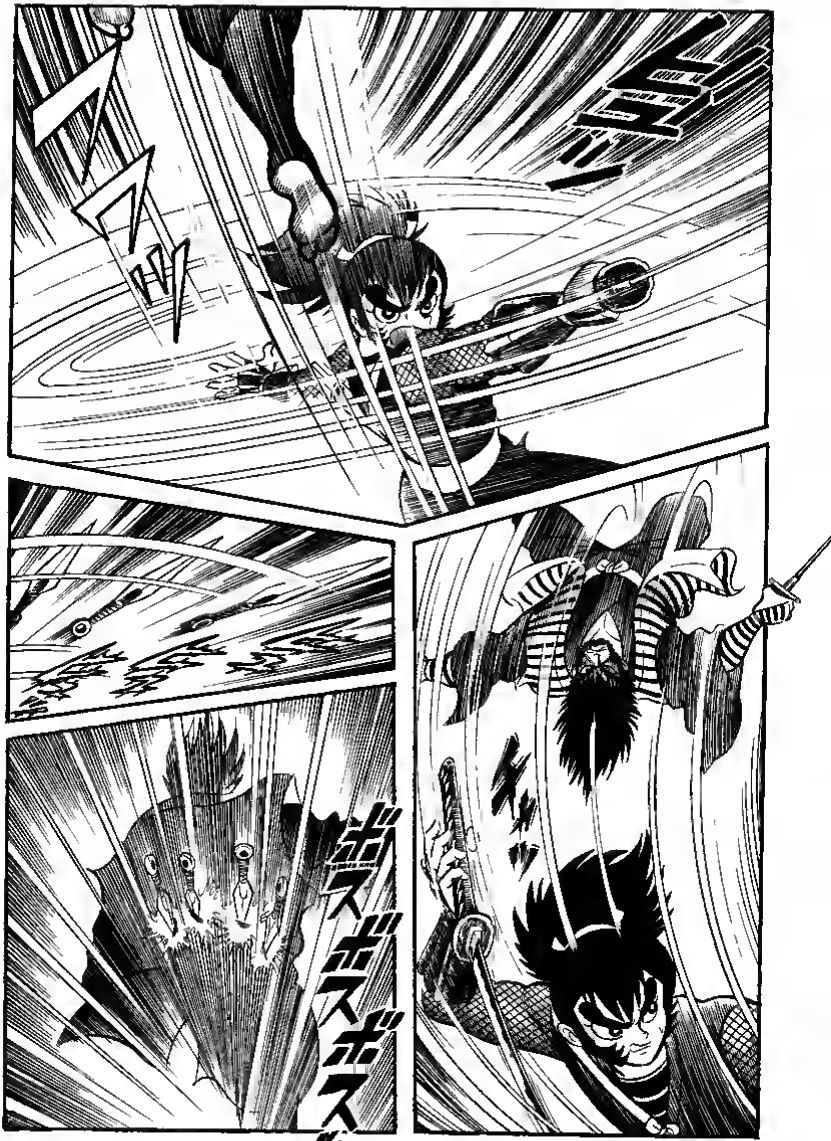
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TCH!
RIGHT HERE!
!!

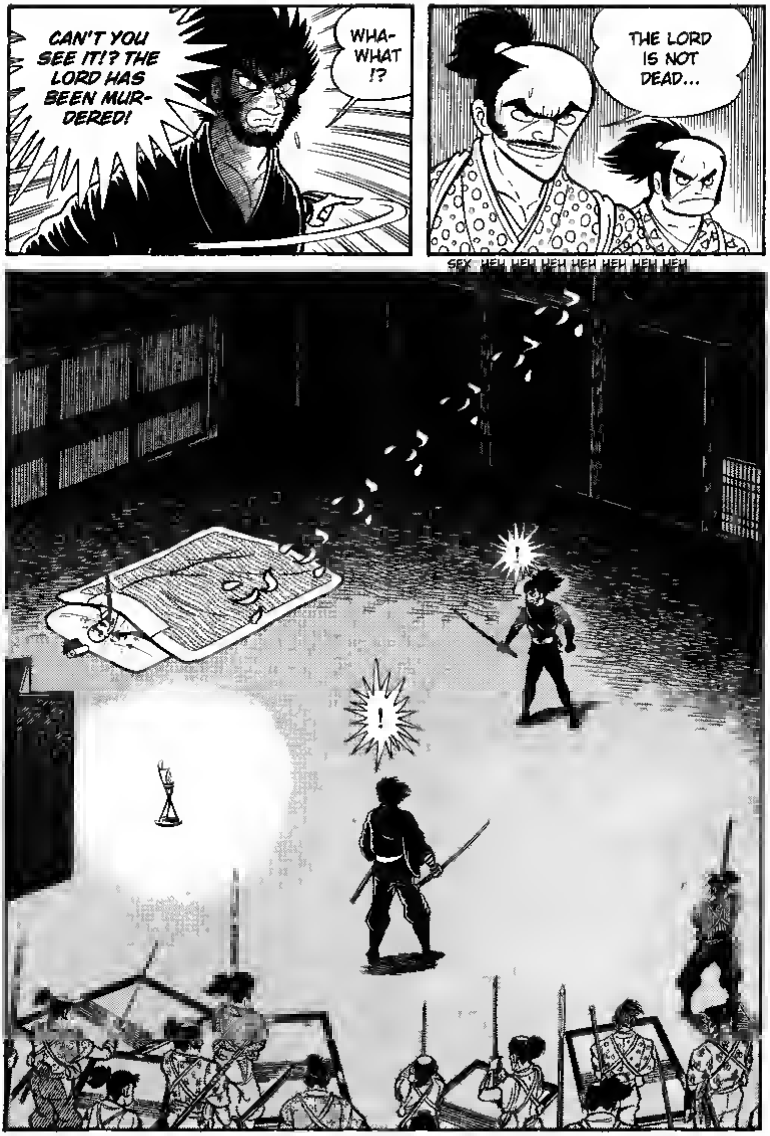
HE'S STRONG... THIS IS THE TRUE POWER OF THE KOUGA NINJA...

The Kougo can be considered the rivals of the Igo.
Like the Igo, they secluded themselves alone in the mountains... Surrounded by the mountains, the Igo and Kougo formed their own distinct ninja organizations...
Although the Igo and Kougo were close to each other geographically, their history and techniques as shinobi were quite different...

HEH HEH HEH, I DIDN'T EXPECT SUCH SKILL OF A CHILD...
IN A FEW MORE YEARS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WIN AGAINST YOU...
BUT RIGHT NOW, MY SKILL IS GREATER!

--TE TE TE
HEH HEH HEH, YOU'RE GETTING DESPERATE NOW, AREN'T YOU SHISHI-MARU...?
THE PEOPLE OF THE CASTLE HAVE NOTICED THE DISTUR-BANCE!
WHAT WILL YOU DO...?
ドドドドドドドドドドドド

OH! YOU VILLAIN! THE LORD'S BEEN KILLED!
SIR JINNAI..
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE! EVEN TEARING HIM TO PIECES WOULD BE TOO GOOD FOR HIM!
I DOZED OFF FOR JUST AN INSTANT, AND THAT GAVE HIM HIS CHANCE!


CAN'T YOU SEE IT!? THE LORD HAS BEEN MURDERED!
WHA-WHAT!?
THE LORD IS NOT DEAD...
SFX: HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
!
!

SFX: HAH HA HA HA HA HA
SFX: HEH HA HA HA HA HA
THAT CAN'T BE...
IM-IM-POSSI-BLE...
I'M SURE HE WAS DEAD...
IT- IT CAN'T BE...
WAH!

KEH
HEH
HEH
HEH

I AM NOT DEAD.
!
!!
WHA- WHAT?
CAN...
CAN IT BE?
IS NOT ENOUGH TO KILL ME...
THIS...
IN THIS WORLD, THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT TRULY DIE EVEN IF HE IS KILLED...
HAH HAH HA, ONCE IN A WHILE, THERE IS A DEVILISH MAN LIKE THAT.
A GAIJIN WHO DOES NOT DIE WHEN SHOT WITH A CANNON, BUT MERELY SLEEPS. WHO DOES NOT DIE EVEN IF STABBED THROUGH THE THROAT...

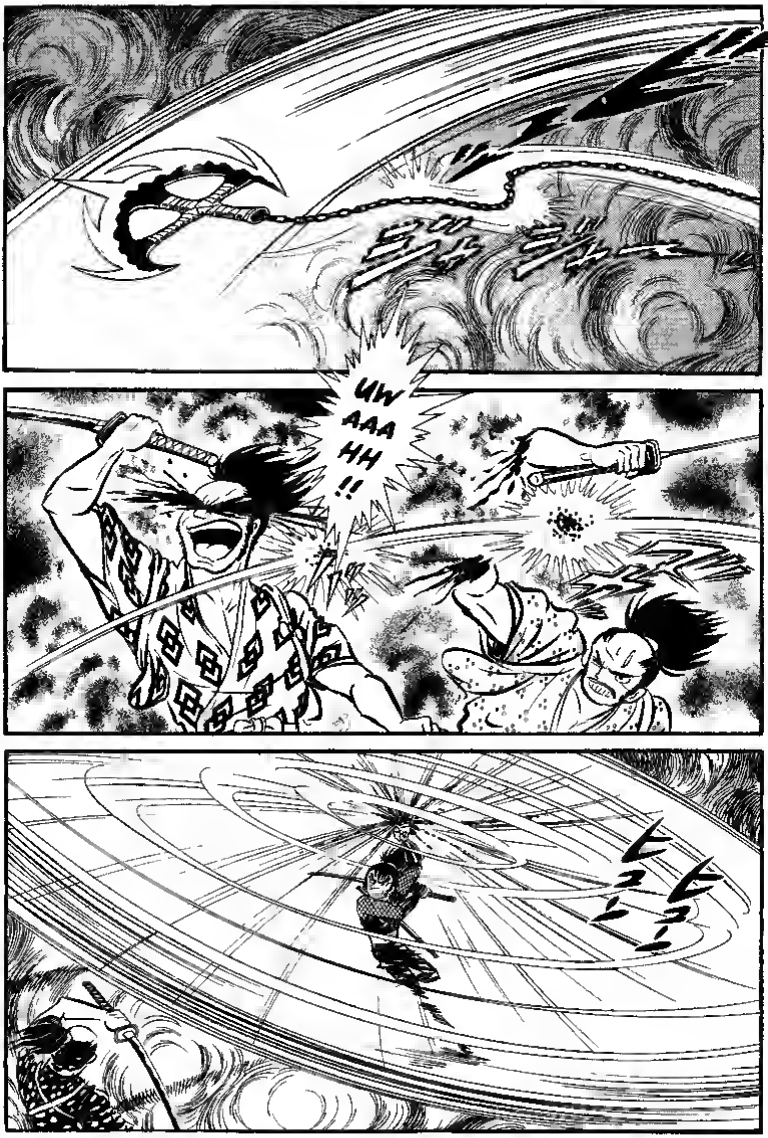
SO, YOU AREN'T DOUSAN !?
LIKE MYSELF ...
WHEN YOU SWITCHED PLACES WITH JINNAI...
I TOOK DOUSAN'S PLACE...
THEN, YOU ARE...
HEH HEH HEH, I AM THE IMMORTAL MAN...

WAH HAH HAH HAH
HAH HAH HAH
JIN-NAI DO-UMA !!
THIS IS THE GREATEST FAILURE OF KO-JIROU RYUUZUKI OF THE KOUGA NINJA
TO THINK THAT THERE WAS A TRULY UNKILLABLE MAN IN THIS WORLD
IS DOUSAN SAITOU IN THIS CASTLE ?
THIS IS MY LOSS PLEASE TELL ME JUST ONE THING.

HEH HEH HEH
YOU ARE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF STRIKING AT THE LORD.
BUT WHAT IF I COULD...?
BUT, WHAT WILL YOU NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD THAT?
HE'S PROBABLY RESTING, UNAWARE OF THE DISTURBANCE HERE.
THE LORD IS IN ANOTHER ROOM.
LET ME SHOW THE FINAL TECHNIQUE OF KOJIROU RYUUZUKI OF THE KOUGA NINJA!
!
WHAT!?

YOU DEVIL!
KILL HIM! CUT HIM DOWN!
SHISHIMARU! LET'S PUT OUR MATCH ON HOLD AND JOIN FORCES!
ALRIGHT!
WAH!

DON'T LET THE NINJA GET AWAY!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!!

MUN!
KOUGA NINJA ARTS: RUNNING DRAGON BLAZE TECHNIQUE !!

AS LONG AS HE'S IN THIS CASTLE, HE CAN'T ESCAPE THE RUNNING DRAGON BLAZE TECHNIQUE.
WAH HAH HAH, I'VE TAKEN DOUSAN SAITOU'S LIFE!
ムッ!
GUNPOWDER! THERE'S GUNPOWDER ALONG THE EDGES OF THE TATAMI MATS.

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UWAHH
UWAAHHH

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HAH!

SFX: UWAAHHH
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キャラー
SAVE
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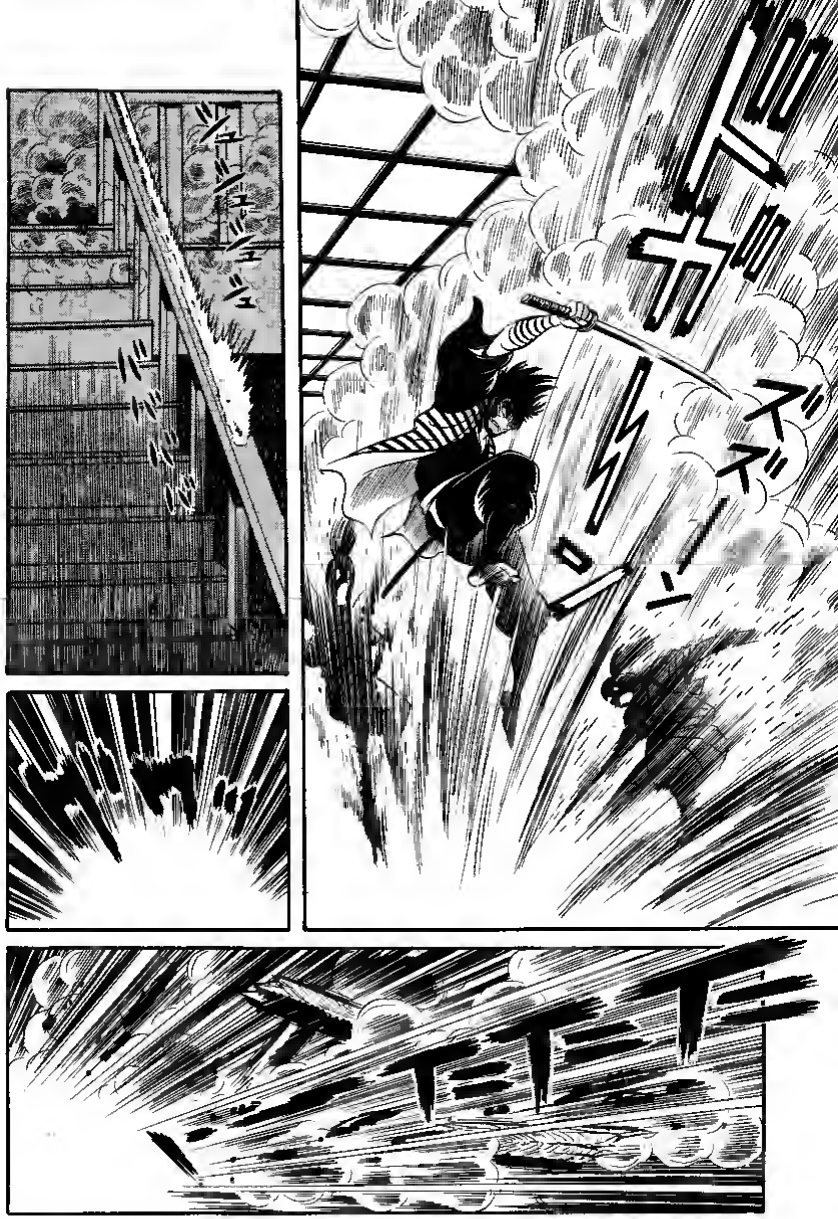
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SFX:UWAAAHH

I'VE SET EXPLOSIVES IN A HUNDRED AND TWENTY PLACES THROUGHOUT THE CASTLE.
THE SKILLFULLY HIDDEN FUSES WILL SET THEM ALL OFF.
THIS IS THE NINJA ARTS OF KOUGA.
THE RUNNING DRAGON BLAZE TECHNIQUE!
SFX: HEH HAH HA HA HA

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SFX: GOHO GOHO
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バキバキメキッ
SHISHIMARU, FOLLOW AFTER ME!
OH – THE MAN FROM KOUGA?
YOU'RE CALLED KOJIROU RYUUZUKI, RIGHT?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS CASTLE FULL OF EXPLOSIVES..
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL HELP ME?
I NO LONGER HAVE A REASON TO KILL YOU BESIDES, PEOPLE IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK SHOULD HELP EACH OTHER OUT... HEH HEH HEH HEH
COME ON!

LORD! SAGI-YAMA CASTLE IS GOING UP IN FLAMES.
WHAT!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
!
LORD!
IT SEEMS THE ENEMY'S FORCES ARE NO IN GREAT DISORDER.
OUR CHANCE AT VICTORY HAS ARRIVED!
IT SEEMS TO BE THE DOING OF THAT SHINOBI WE HIRED!

YES SIR!
I WILL CROSS THE NAGARA RIVER THIS VERY DAY!
VERY WELL !!
READY THE WHOLE ARMY TO MARCH!
HEH HEH HEH, IT WASN'T JUST ME
DID YOU REALLY RIG THIS MANY EXPLOSIVES IN SUCH A SHORT TIME..?
THIS PLAN REQUIRED THE HELP OF TWENTY PEOPLE OF KOUGA DISGUISED AS VASSALS

OH, IT SEEMS EVERY-THING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.
SIR RYUUZUKI, THIS WAY
HA HA HA, THIS IS THE MAN OF IGA WHO GAVE ME SUCH A HORRIBLE TIME...
WHO IS THAT?
ANOTHER OF SIR KOJIROU'S GAMES, I SEE.
THAT'S A BAD HABIT OF YOURS.
HE MAY ME A CHILD, BUT HE'S QUITE SKILLED. WE DECIDED TO ESCAPE TOGETHER!
THANKS. I'LL BE SURE TO PAY YOU BACK SOME-TIME!
IT'S FINE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG IN HELPING OUT AN IGA ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT WE HELP SIR KOJIRO BECAUSE WE LIKE THOSE UN-SHINOBI-LIKE PARTS OF HIM.

INCREDIBLE... DID YOU MAKE THIS ESCAPE TUNNEL?
THIS WAS HERE FROM THE BEGINNING
MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CASTLE DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT.

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY, NINJA! NOT EVEN IF YOU BURROW TO THE BOTTOM OF THE EARTH...
HEH HEH HEH
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SOME-ONE IS FOLLOW-ING US!
WHAT IS IT?
HM !!
WHAT!? JINNAI?
BUT, IF IT WERE JINNAI...
COULD IT BE? NO ONE COULD HAVE MADE IT OUT OF THOSE ROARING FLAMES.

QUICKLY... WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY!
UH! THIS IS BAD
JINNAI DOUMA IS PURSUING US?

IM-POS-SIBLE !!
IF JINNAI IS COMING AFTER US ALONE, WE SHOULD JUST KILL HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT.
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

IF HE CATCH-ES US, WE'LL ALL BE DEAD!
HURRY, JINNAI IS FAST ON HIS FEET!

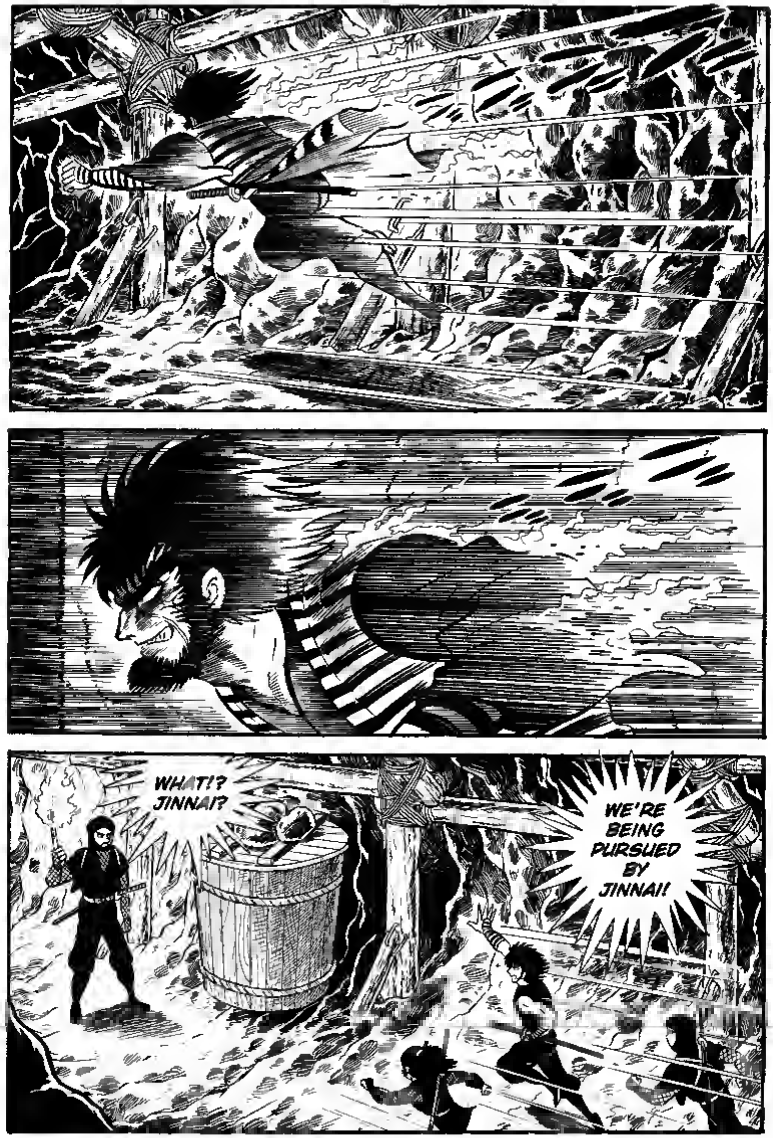
YOU DON'T KNOW THE TERROR OF JINNAI DOUMA.

HE'S NOT A HUMAN, HE'S A DEVIL! NO ONE COULD EVER DEFEAT HIM!

I DON'T GET IT, KOJIROU. WHY IS SOME-ONE OF YOUR LEVEL RUNNING AWAY?
DID YOU INTEND TO CHALLENGE JINNAI KNOWING NOTHING?
FOOL!
WHY DO YOU FEAR JINNAI THIS MUCH?

WE NINJA UNDERGO FEARSOME TRAINING FROM THE TIME WE ARE BORN IN ORDER TO GAIN ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE OF ORDINARY PEOPLE.
WE RUN FASTER! WE JUMP HIGHER!
WE CAN CLING TO CEILING WITH OUR FINGERS
WE CAN SCALE SHEER CLIFFS AS EASILY AS WE CROSS LEVEL PLAINS
OUR EYES CAN SEE EVEN IN THE DARKNESS AND OUR EARS DO NOT MISS EVENT THE LEAST SOUND!
MOREOVER, WE ARE VERSED IN ALL THE ARTS OF ARMED AND UNARMED COMBAT!
THAT IS A NINJA!
HOW-EVER...

IF A NINJA CAN LEAP FIVE STORIES, JINNAI CAN LEAP TEN!
IF A NINJA CAN RUN FORTY LEAGUES IN A DAY, JINNAI CAN RUN EIGHTY
HOWEVER, JINNAI DOUMA POSSESSES SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES
WHICH COMPLETELY SURPASS ALL THOSE OF THE NINJA!
HOW CAN THAT BE!?
CAN A HUMAN LIKE THAT REALLY EXIST IN THIS WORLD!?
HOW CAN HE BE? IT'S UNBELIEVABLE
BESIDES WHICH,
HE'S IMMORTAL!
MOREOVER, HIS SWORDSMANSHIP IS BEYOND FIRST RATE
THAT UNBELIEVEABLE MAN IS JINNAI DOUMA!
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S UNBELIEVEABLE!


WHAT!? JINNAI?
WE'RE BEING PURSUED BY JINNAI!

OIL.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S HEAVY...
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE LEND A HAND.
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WE'LL TURN THIS TUNNEL INTO A SEA OF FLAMES!
SOME INSURANCE IN CASE WE WERE DISCOVERED...
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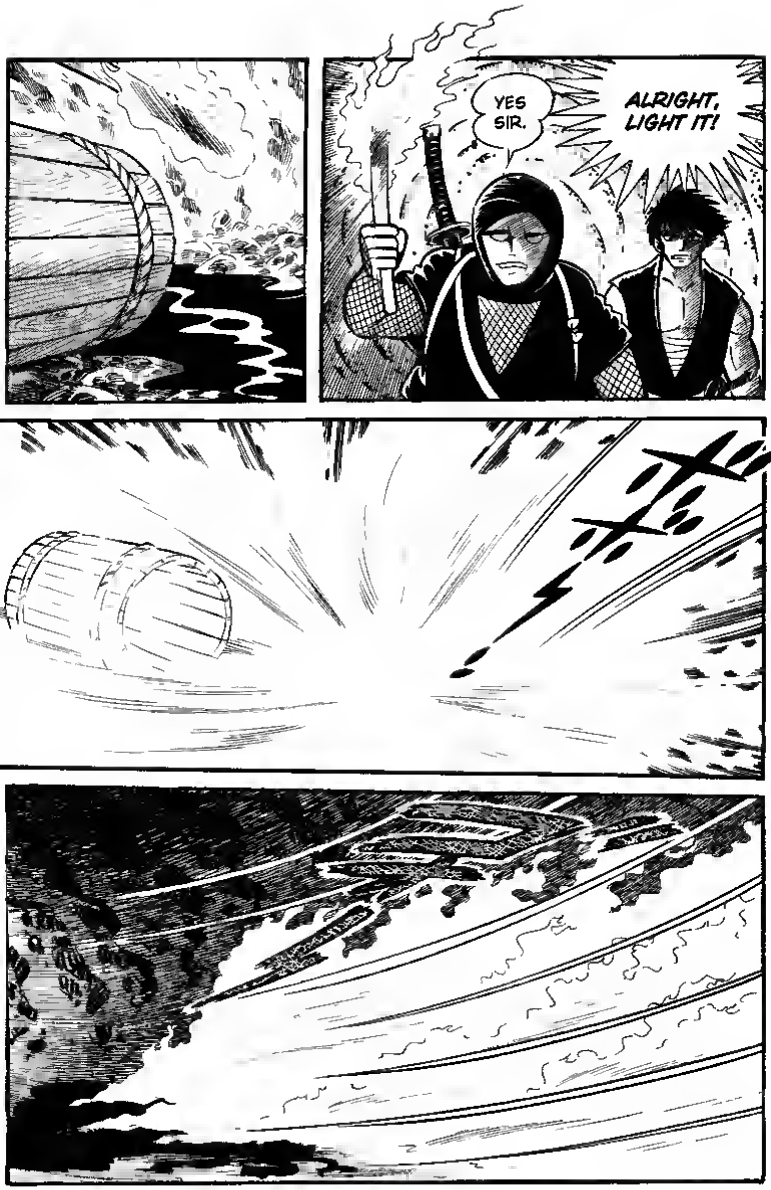
YES SIR.
ALRIGHT, LIGHT IT!

IF JINNAI'S IMMORTALITY TECHNIQUE IS THE REAL THING, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THIS FIRE...
IF HE COMES THROUGH THIS UNSCATHED, I'LL BELIEVE HE'S THE REAL THING!
THAT'S... COULD IT BE?
F...FROM INSIDE THE FIRE.
OH! FOOT-STEPS!
HE'S COM-ING!
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, IT'S USELESS AGAINST JINNAI!
RUN!
HE'S COM-ING !!
UWAAHHH

HE'S HERE! JINNAI HAS COME!!
JINNAI'S BODY IS ON FIRE! GUNPOWDER! HIT HIM WITH GUN-POWDER!
WAH HAH HAH HA
I'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!
ビュッ
ビュッ

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WE DID IT...
WE GOT HIM!

THAT SURPRISED ME...
FUUUH

I DIDN'T THINK I'D SURVIVE BEING CHASED BY A MONSTER LIKE THIS.
HE WAS A TERRIFYING MAN...

ギロッ

BUT EVEN JINNAI CAN'T SURVIVE AS JUST A HEAD ..

HE'S ALIVE. JINNAI IS STILL ALIVE!
WHAT!?
HE- HE MOVED!
JINNAI'S EYES MOVED!
AH!
BUT I'M SURE..
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS... GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
HAAH HAH HAH HAH HA

I'M SURE I SAW IT.
ARE YOU CALLING ME A COWARD!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BOY!?
IT WAS JUST YOUR IMAGINATION. YOU JUST GOT WORKED UP BECAUSE YOU'RE SO AFRAID OF JINNAI, RIGHT?
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
OH!
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UWAAAHH!
SFX: HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
SFX: HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

ナ!!
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ナ!!
JINNAI DOUMA IS IMMOR-TAL!!

BUT...

GAH HAH HAH HA, THIS TIME IT'S YOUR TURN TO DIE!!

I WONDER IF YOU CAN COME BACK TO LIFE LIKE ME..?
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH..

IT'S USELESS, RUN!
SHIIITT. YOU MONSTER!
AH WA WA...

UWAAAAHHH
DIIEEE!! PLEASE DIIEEE!
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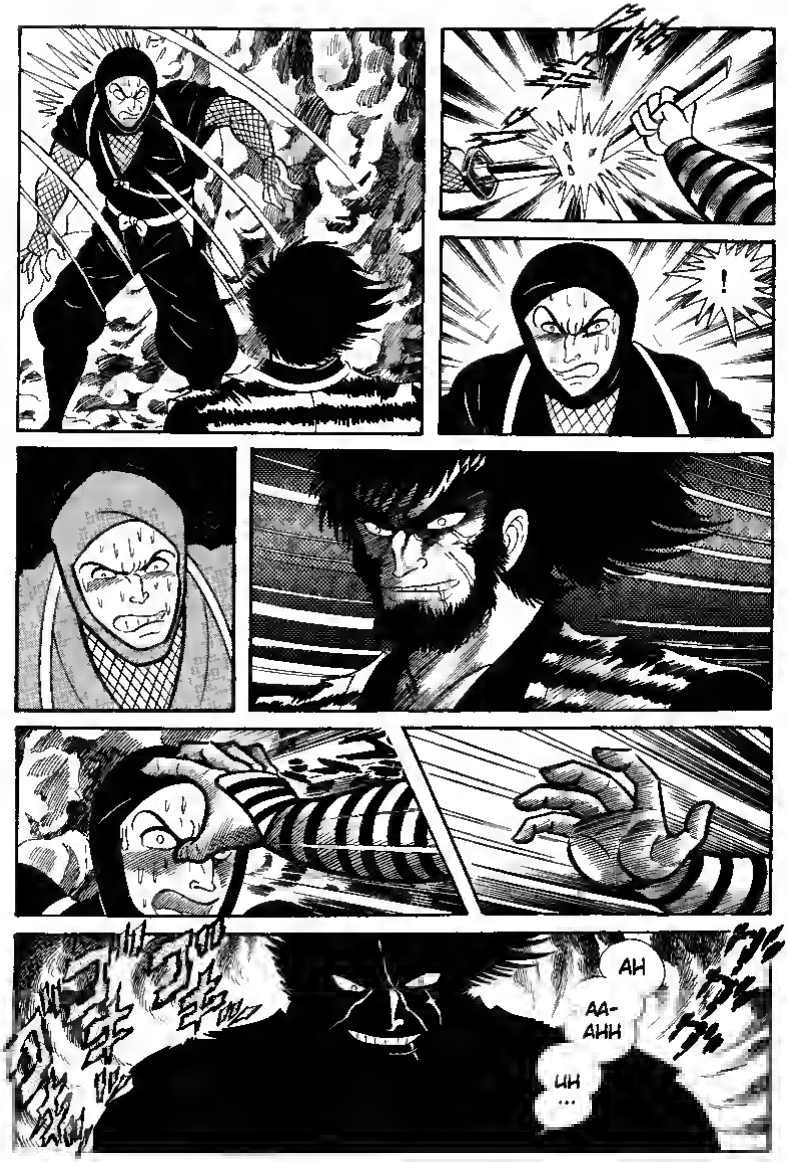
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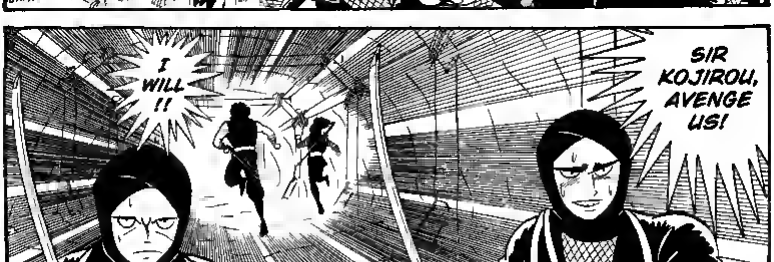
AH
AA-
AHH
UH
...

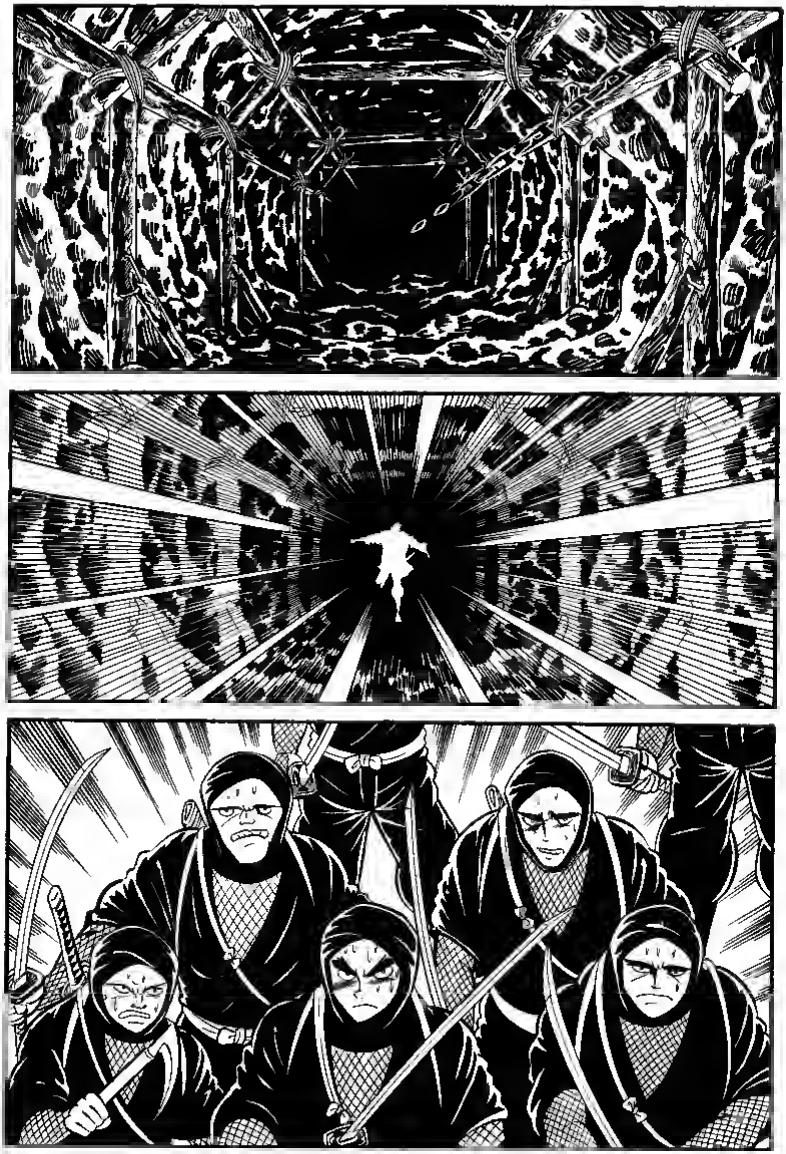
WHY ...?
HEH HEH HEH, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU DEAD ALREADY...?
WAH HAH HAH
WHY CAN'T YOU COME BACK TO LIFE?
HEH HEH HEH

EVEN AFTER PASSING THROUGH FIRE AND LOSING HIS HEAD...
A MAN WHO WON'T DIE
JINNAI DOUMA: A HUMAN WHO POSSESSES A DEATHLESS LIFE. THAT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE IN THIS WORLD.
IS THERE NO WAY TO DEFEAT HIM...?
JINNAI IS COMING!
HE'S COMING!
OH!

I'M SORRY
YOU MEAN TO DIE, THEN?
PLEASE FLEE AS FAR AS YOU CAN.
YOU MUST FLEE, SIR KOUJIROU. WE WILL HOLD JINNAI HERE AS LONG AS WE CAN.

WE WILL DIE HERE IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU THAT CHANCE!
BUT YOU, SIR KOJIROU, MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO BRING DOWN JINNAI.
NO ONE CAN AVOID DEATH WITH JINNAI CHASING THEM .


I WILL !!
SIR KOJIROU, AVENGE US!



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GYAAAHH!!
GUWAH!
UOH!
DAMN YOU!! YOU MON-STER!

UH! MY IRON CLAW!
HEH HEH HEH
GU OO OH H

WAH HAH HAH HA
THESE ARE THE NINJA OF KOU-GA !?
HIIII!!

UWAAAHH!!
HIIII
SO-SOME-BODY SAVE MEEEE!
SFX: GIEEHHH
HEH HEH HEH HEH

WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T YOU RUN PROPERLY?
HEH HEH
HEE!
YOU PITIFUL BAS-TARDS!
THE SPEED YOU'RE SO PROUD OF?
IS THAT THE SPEED OF A NINJA !?
HIIII

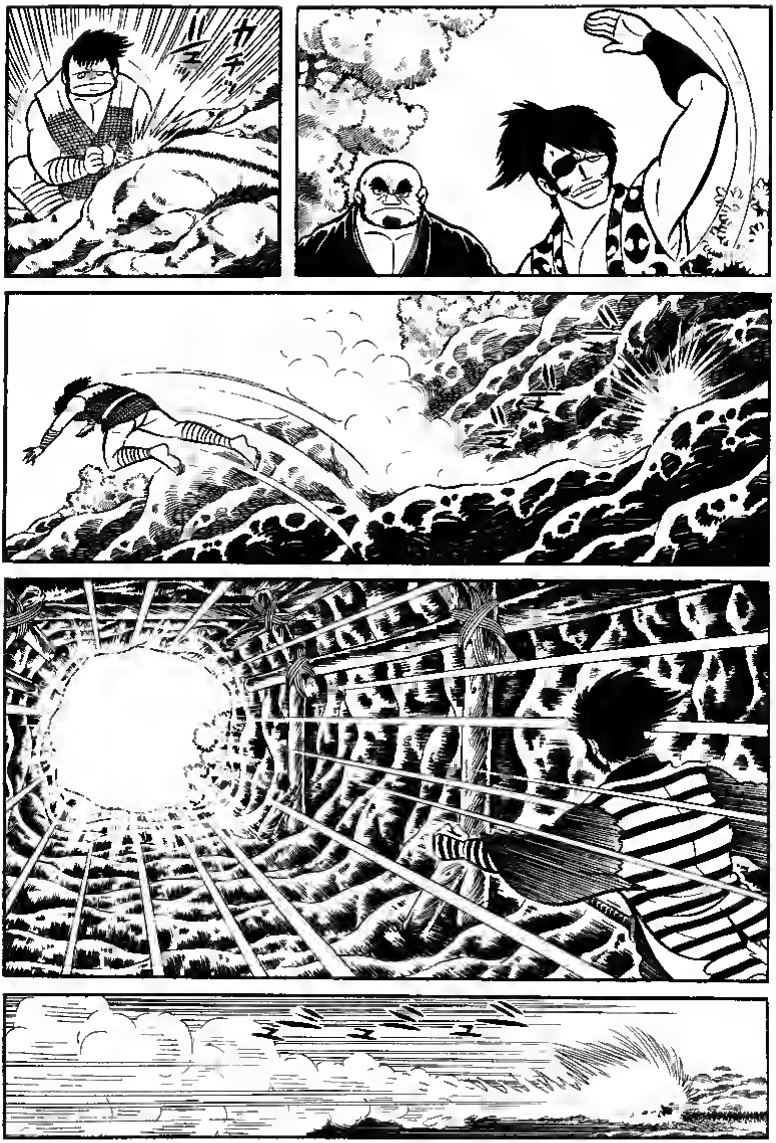
HA HA HA HA HA

YOU'RE WORMS! GARBAGE! WAH HAH HAH HA
NINJA MUST DIE!
YOU'LL ALL VANISH FROM THIS WORLD WITHOUT A TRACE!
AH
AA-AHH

HURRY, WE'VE GOT NO CHANCE OF WINNING LIKE THIS!!
IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE ALL BEEN KILLED.
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO FIGHT HIM!
IF WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE, WE'LL JOIN UP WITH MY COMRADES OUTSIDE.

OH!!
THE EXIT !!
HE'S GONE!!
IT'S JINNAI!!

WE'RE BEING CHASED BY JINNAI! CLOSE THE HOLE!
HUH, JINNAI !?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I KNOW, THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO SURVIVE EXCEPT TO BRING DOWN JINNAI SOMEHOW.
JINNAI IS COMING, WHAT WILL WE DO!?
EVEN STOPPING UP THE HOLE WON'T DO MORE THAN BUY US TIME.
HM !?
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HUMAN AT ALL.
BUT, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT JINNAI.
WHAT ?
I SEE, THAT'S IT!!
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HUMAN!?

IT'S BECAUSE WE THINK OF HIM AS HUMAN THAT WE CAN'T BEAT HIM.
IF WE THINK OF HIM AS A MONSTROUS GIANT BEAR OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT HIM.
WE'RE BEING DECEIVED BY HIS HUMAN FORM. HE ISN'T HUMAN.
HMM.
A MON-STER?

IN ORDER TO BRING DOWN A GIANT BEAR, WE NEED A TRAP. WE'LL BUILD A LARGE-SCALE TRAP!
VERY WELL! IN THAT CASE, LET'S TRY THINKING OF JINNAI AS A GIANT BEAR FOUR OR FIVE TIMES THE SIZE OF AN ORDINARY BEAR.
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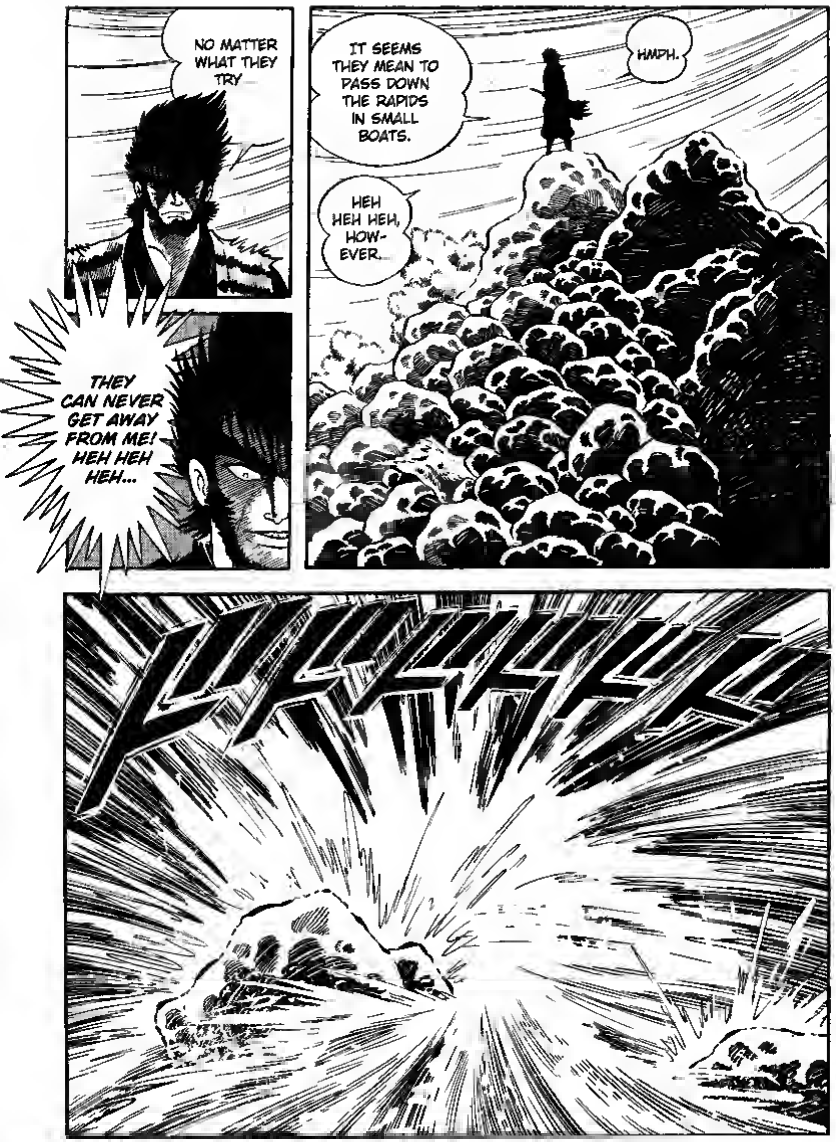
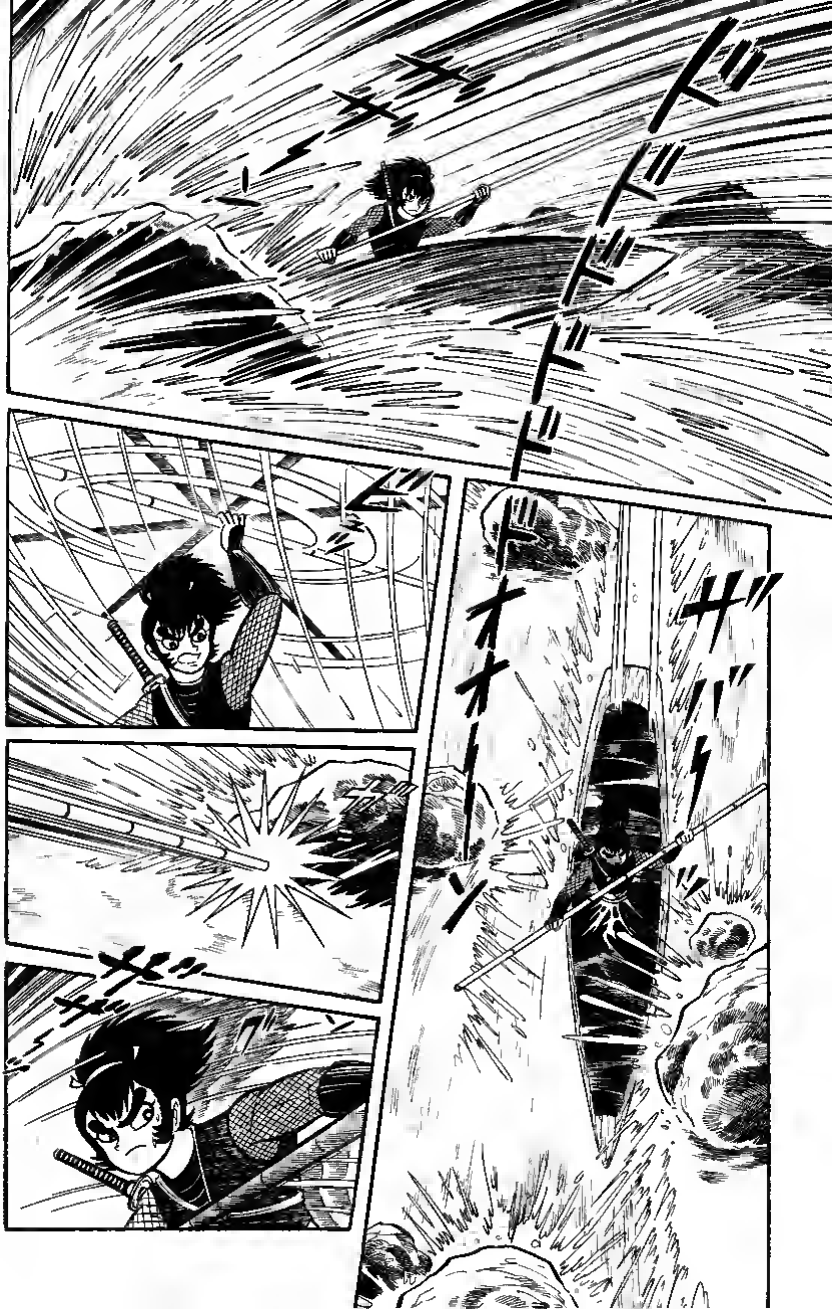
WORK TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND JINNAI.
SIR KOJIROU, OVER HERE.
IN ORDER TO SET A LARGE-SCALE TRAP, WE NEED TIME.

WITH THIS, WE CAN SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM JINNAI SOMEWHAT!
RIVER RAFTING.
ドドド

A RIVER LIKE THIS IS NOTHING.
OF COURSE I CAN!
CAN YOU HANDLE A SMALL SHINOBI BOAT?
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO
SO, THERE WAS ONE MORE WAITING ON TOP OF THAT...
OH, THEY'RE BEING CAUTIOUS..
HMM, THE SOUND OF A RIVER.
I CAN HEAR YOU, I CAN HEAR YOU THE SOUND OF NINJA FEET RUNNING JUST A RI (3.927KM OR 2.44 MILES) AHEAD...
ONE... TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE SO, THEY'VE ADDED THREE.
HEH HEH HEH


NO MATTER WHAT THEY TRY
THEY CAN NEVER GET AWAY FROM ME! HEH HEH HEH...
IT SEEMS THEY MEAN TO PASS DOWN THE RAPIDS IN SMALL BOATS.
HEH HEH HEH, HOW-EVER.
HMPH.
KRAKK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HEE HEE HEE, STRUG-GLE..
WHEN YOU STRUGGLE AS HARD AS YOU CAN, THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU INCREASES...

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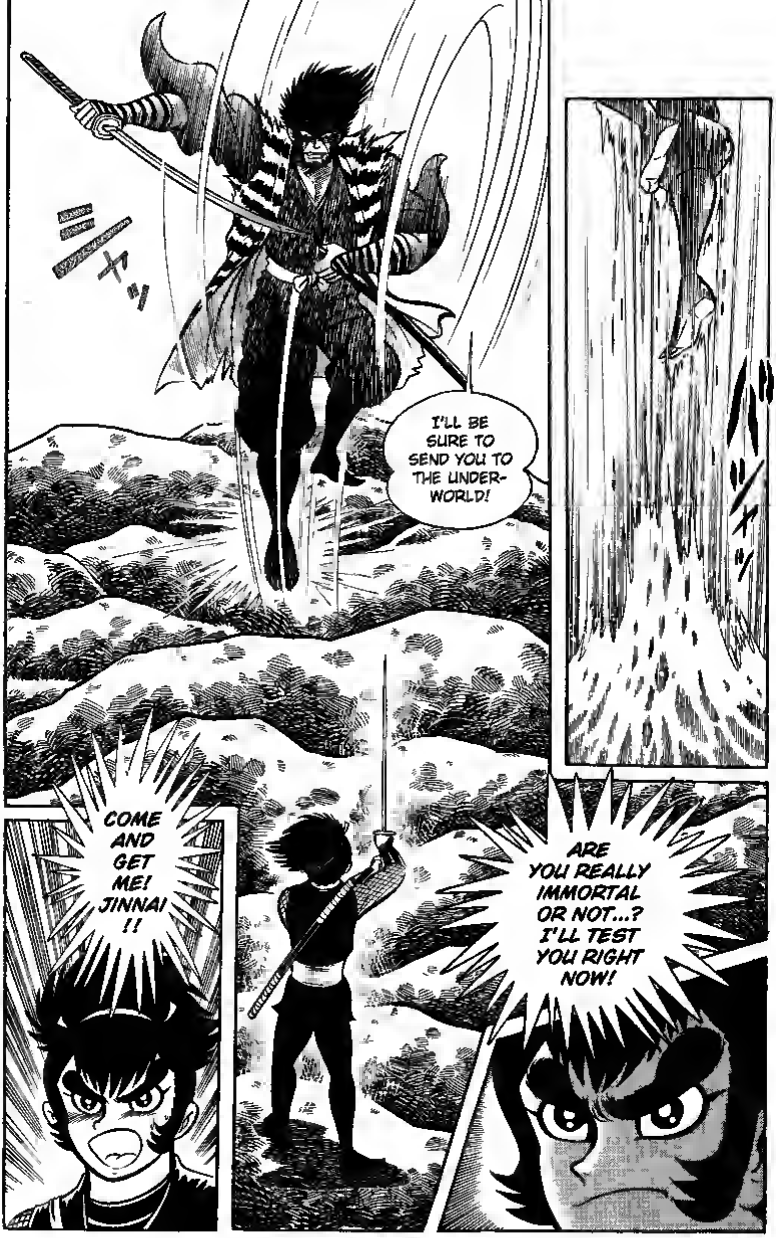
WHO WILL DO IT!?
IN ORDER TO LURE A MONSTER INTO A TRAP, WE NEED BAIT.
OUR OPPONENT IS JINNAI. THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT...
EVEN IF YOU SUCCEED IN ENSNARING JINNAI, I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE.
I WILL! LET ME DO IT!
I CAN'T JUST KEEP ON BEING SAVED BY THE KOUGA.
LET ME REPAY MY DEBT WITH THIS.
IF THIS GOES WELL, IT WILL BE YOU WHO SAVED ME.
VERY WELL.

IT'S INCREDIBLE! THE BODY OF THE IMMORTAL MAN, JINNAI DOJIMA, CAN RUN AS IF HE IS GLIDING ACROSS THE WATER'S SURFACE!

AMAZING, HE'S RUNNING ON WATER WITHOUT WATER-WALKING SHOES.

IS HE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF SOME GOD OR DEMON?

SHISHIMARU TENOU OF THE IGA NINJA CHALLENGES YOU TO BATTLE!
JINNAI DOUMA!! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
COME UP HERE, JINNAI!
HO HO .. YOU COULDN'T GET AWAY, SO YOU'VE TURNED YOUR FANGS TOWARDS ME..!
VERY WELL ..!


I'LL BE SURE TO SEND YOU TO THE UNDER-WORLD!
COME AND GET ME! JINNAI !!
ARE YOU REALLY IMMORTAL OR NOT...? I'LL TEST YOU RIGHT NOW!

UH...
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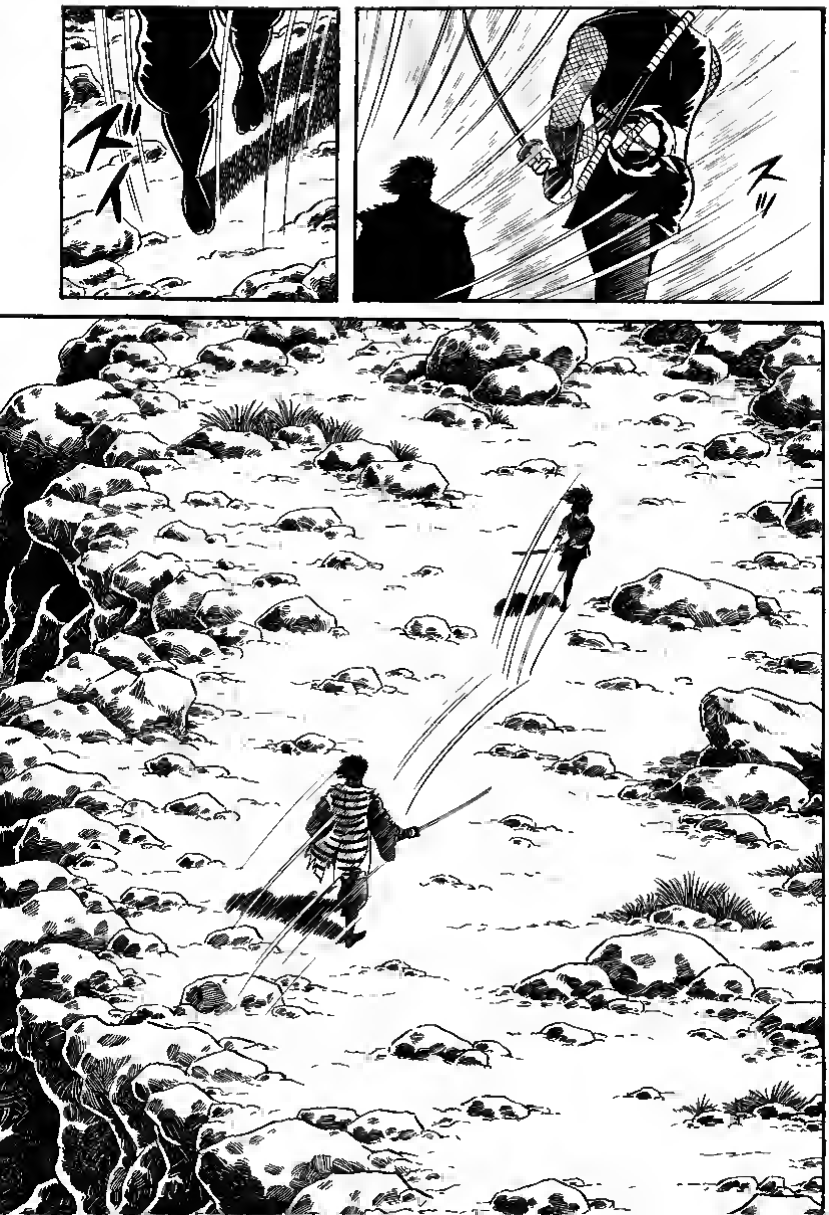
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チャリーン
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HEH.

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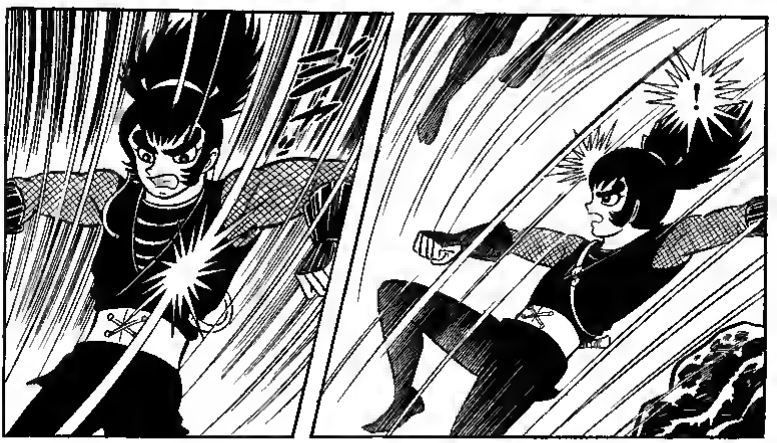
HEH HEH HEH HEH
IS YOUR SWORD MADE OF BAMBOO...? I CUT IT SO EASILY.
IMPOS-SIBLE..
MY SWORD ENDED UP LIKE THIS...?
BUT JINNAI'S SWORD DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE NICK ON ITS BLADE..?

IS HIS SWORD TOO SHARP?
OR ELSE
HEH HEH HEH

SO, YOU HAD TWO SWORDS IN ONE SHEATH. HEE HEE HEE...

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO JUST GIVE UP AND DIE.



GUOOOHHHH
UH
UWAAHH!

HEH HA HA HA
HEH HEH HEH
IT'S SHARP. IT'S TOO SHARP!
JINNAI'S KATANA IS NO ORDINARY SWORD.
IF JIN-NAI IS A MONSTER, THEN SO IS THAT SWORD!!
HA HA HA HA

FROM ABOVE AGAIN ?
OOH!!

GWOHHH

GUAAH

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WA
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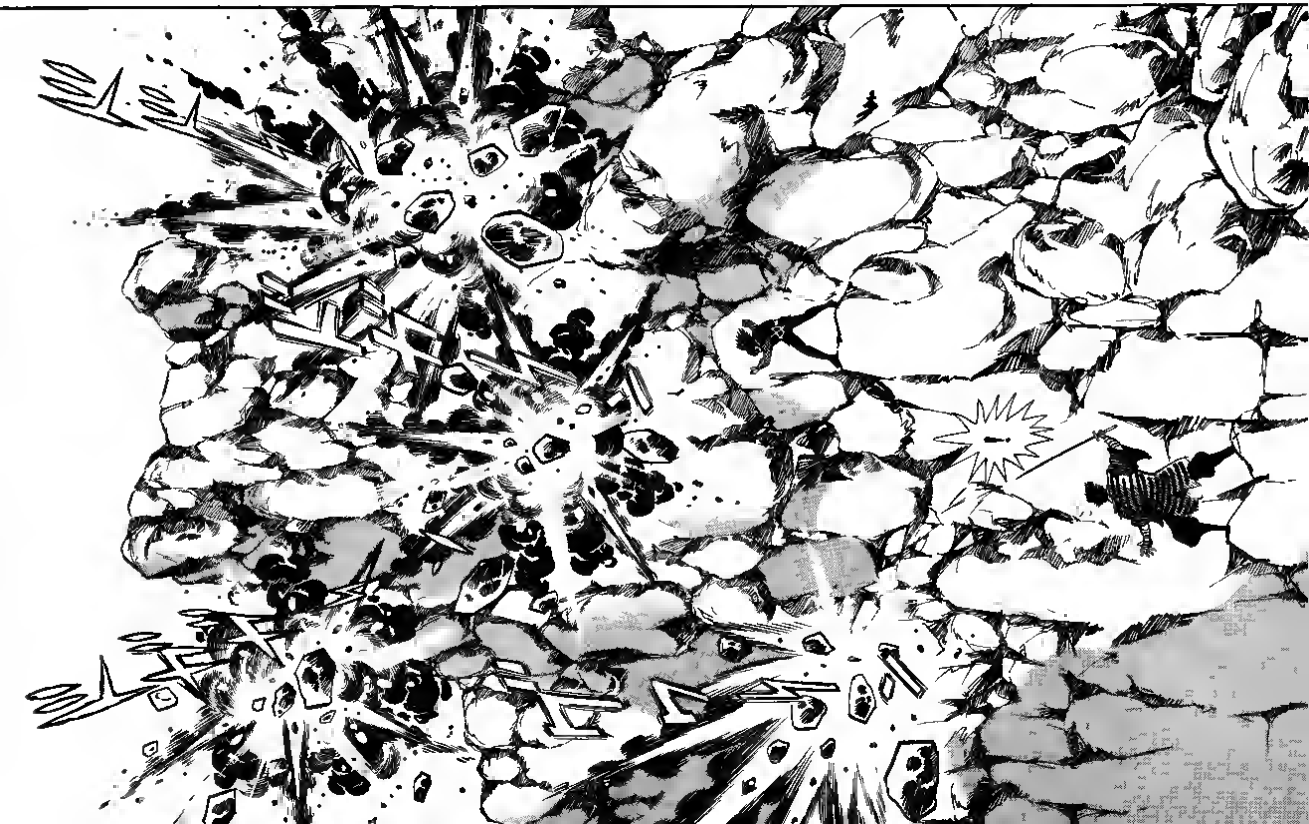
カラン
DIIIEE, BOY!!
ハッ

GAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HA

HEH HEH HEH, FOOL...
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO FLEE TO A PLACE IT'S DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE
I THOUGHT YOU HAD SPIRIT, BOY, BUT...
AAHHH, IT'S BORING NOW THAT YOU'VE LOST CONTROL..
PERHAPS I SHOULD LET YOU DIE SLOWLY...

HE MADE IT....!



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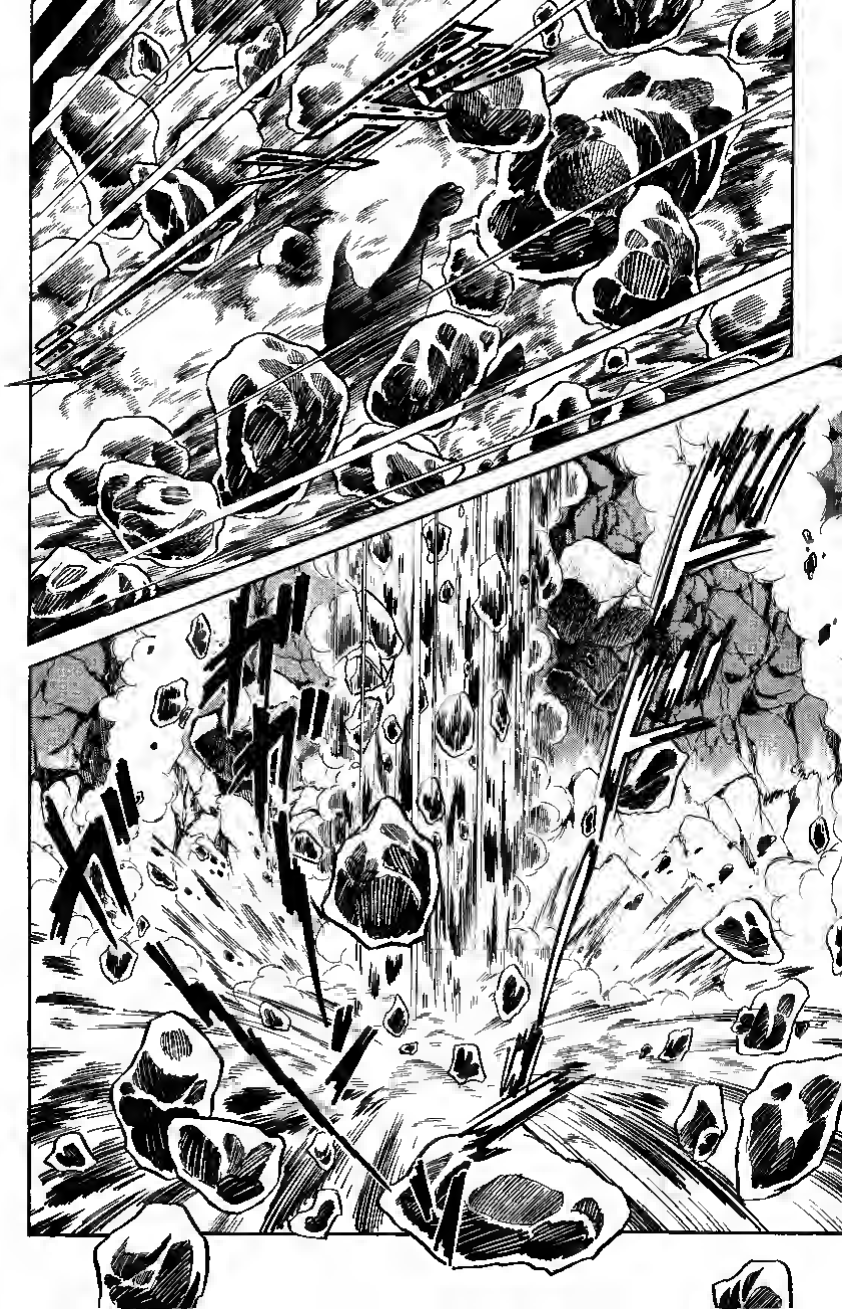

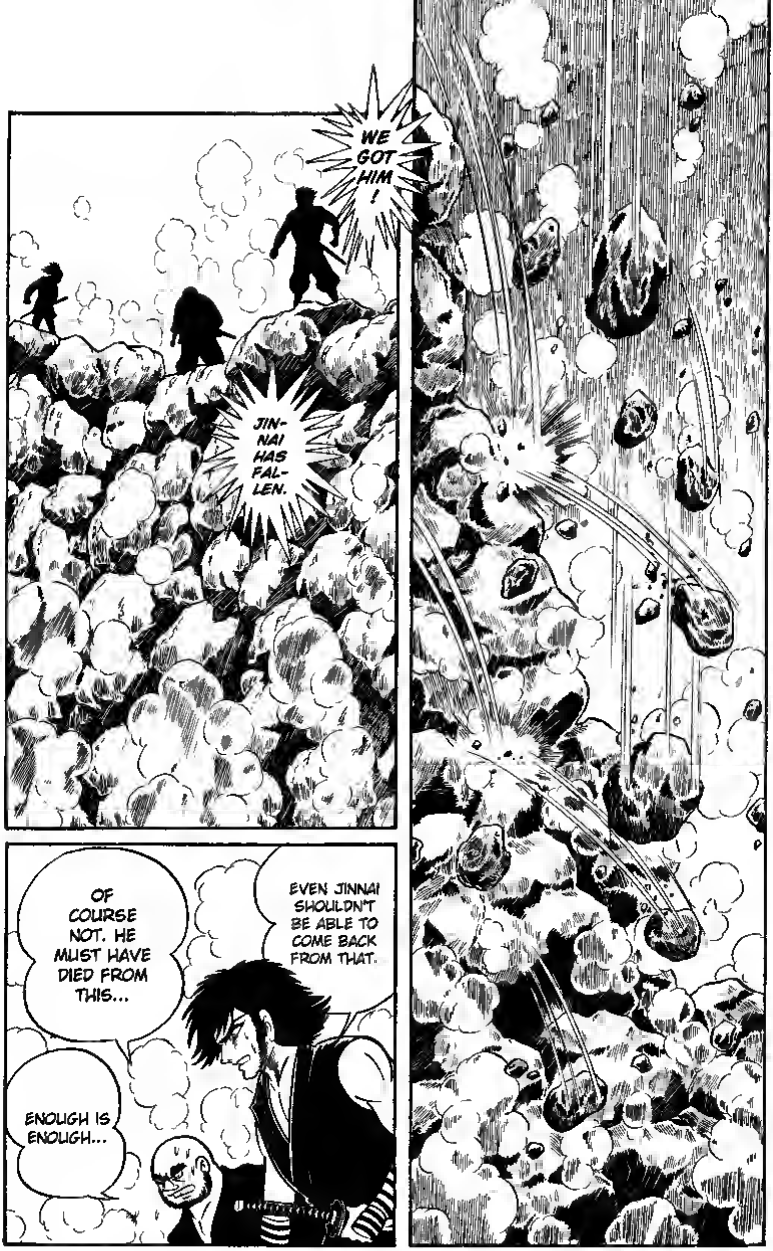
WE GOT HIM!
JIN-NAI HAS FAL-LEN.
EVEN JINNAI SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK FROM THAT.
OF COURSE NOT. HE MUST HAVE DIED FROM THIS...
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH...

YEAH! I'M ALIVE, SOME-HOW ...
SHISHI-MARU, ARE YOU ALRI-GHT?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL...
I FEEL CERTAIN, BUT THERE'S EVERYTHING UNTIL NOW TO CONSIDER.
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO DOWN AND CONFIRM JINNAI'S CORPSE.

MUH!
BE CARE-FUL.
WHAT? THERE'S NO WAY HE'S STILL ALIVE.
AN ARM! JINNAI'S ARM HAS BEEN TORN OFF.
BU... BUT, WHAT'S THIS!?
THIS ARM!?

THE INSIDE IS FILLED WITH MACHINERY.
IT'S HEAVY! AND THIS ARM...
UH! UWA AAH H!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

JIN-NAI!
IT'S JIN-NA-AI!!!!
HHHHHHHH!
JINNAI IS STILL ALIVE!
HH HH HH!!
AWAW-AWA...

SFX: UWAAAHH

GY
AAA
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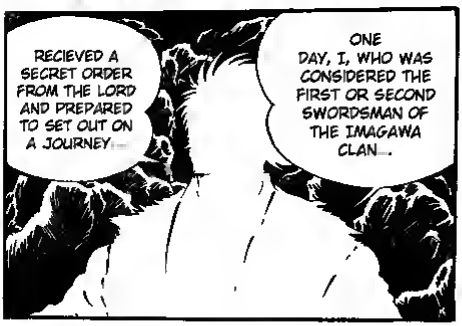
IT SEEMS I PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN MY OWN BODY.
SHI... SHISHI-MARU, IT LOOKS LIKE I LOST.
HAAHHH HAAHHH
MY DEATHLESS BODY IS NOT TRULY IMMORTAL!
HEH HEH HEH
BECAUSE OF THAT, I FELL INTO AN OBVIOUS TRAP.

MY MOUTH BREATHED FIRE...
THE SUPER-COMPACT ATOMIC REACTOR IN MY BODY MUST BE RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL...
SOON, I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THE INTENSE HEAT WITHIN MY BODY...
A "SUPER-COMPACT ATOMIC REACTOR"? WHAT'S THAT...? AND, THAT FACE...
HOW ON EARTH DO YOU HAVE A BODY LIKE THAT?
HEE HEE HEE... THE SUPER-COMPACT ATOMIC REACTOR IS THE SOURCE OF MY LIFE...
THAT IS WHAT THE ONE WHO RETURNED ME TO LIFE SAID...
THE SOURCE OF LIFE WHICH ALLOWED ME TO RETURN AFTER DYING ONCE...
!?
"THE ONE WHO RETURNED YOU TO LIFE"...?

IT IS BECAUSE OF HIM THAT I AM HERE LIKE THIS...

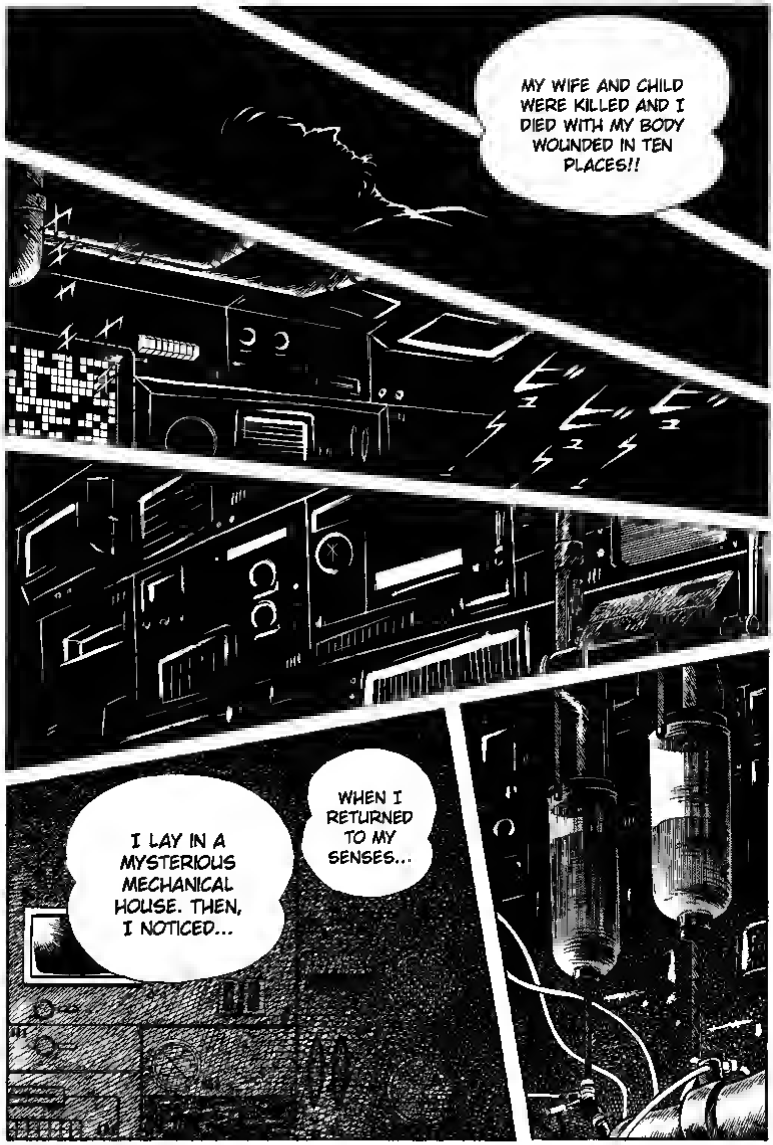
CAN IT BE ...?
ARE YOU SAYING THERE IS SOMEONE IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN RETURN THE DEAD TO LIFE?

ALL OF YOU, COME HERE. I WANT YOU TO LISTEN...
NOW... BEFORE I JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD... LISTEN TO MY MYSTERIOUS STORY..
FUU..
THERE ARE FEW WHO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE STORY OF ONE WHO DIED ONCE AND RETURNED TO LIFE...

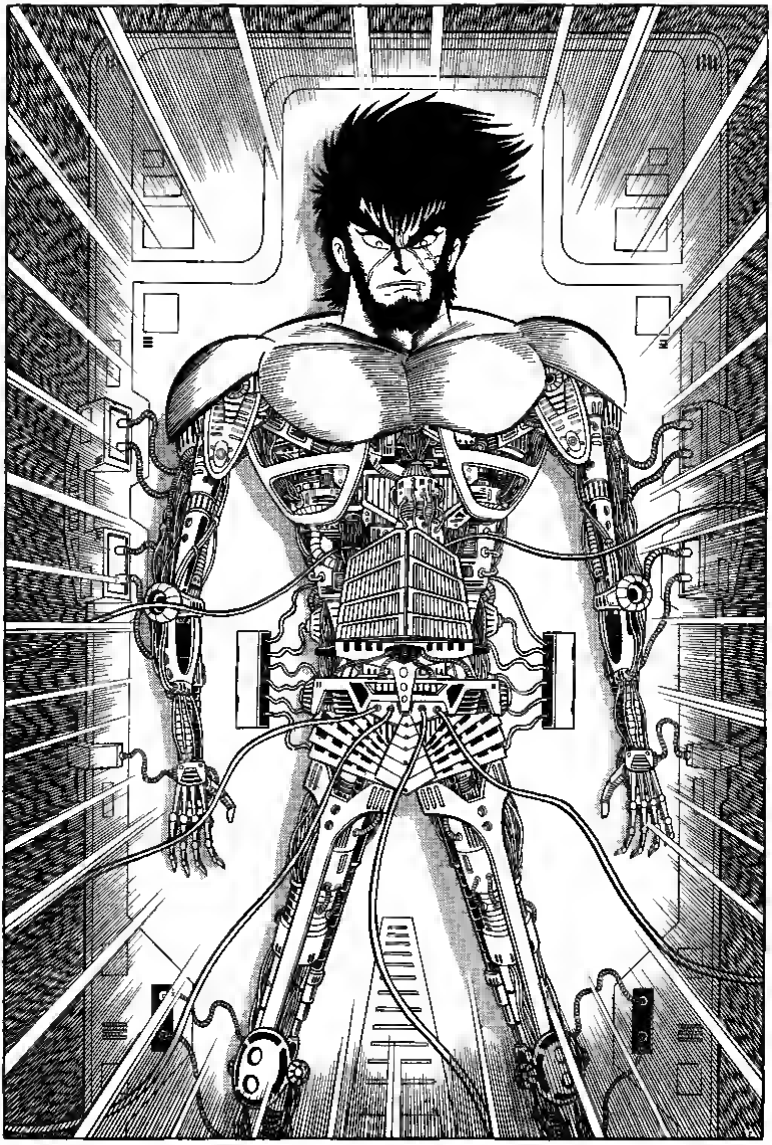

RECIEVED A SECRET ORDER FROM THE LORD AND PREPARED TO SET OUT ON A JOURNEY...
ONE DAY, I, WHO WAS CONSIDERED THE FIRST OR SECOND SWORDSMAN OF THE IMAGAWA CLAN...

NOW, HAS IT ALREADY BEEN FIVE OR SIX YEARS SINCE THEN...?
AT THAT TIME, I WAS IN THE SERVICE OF THE IMAGAWA FAMILY...

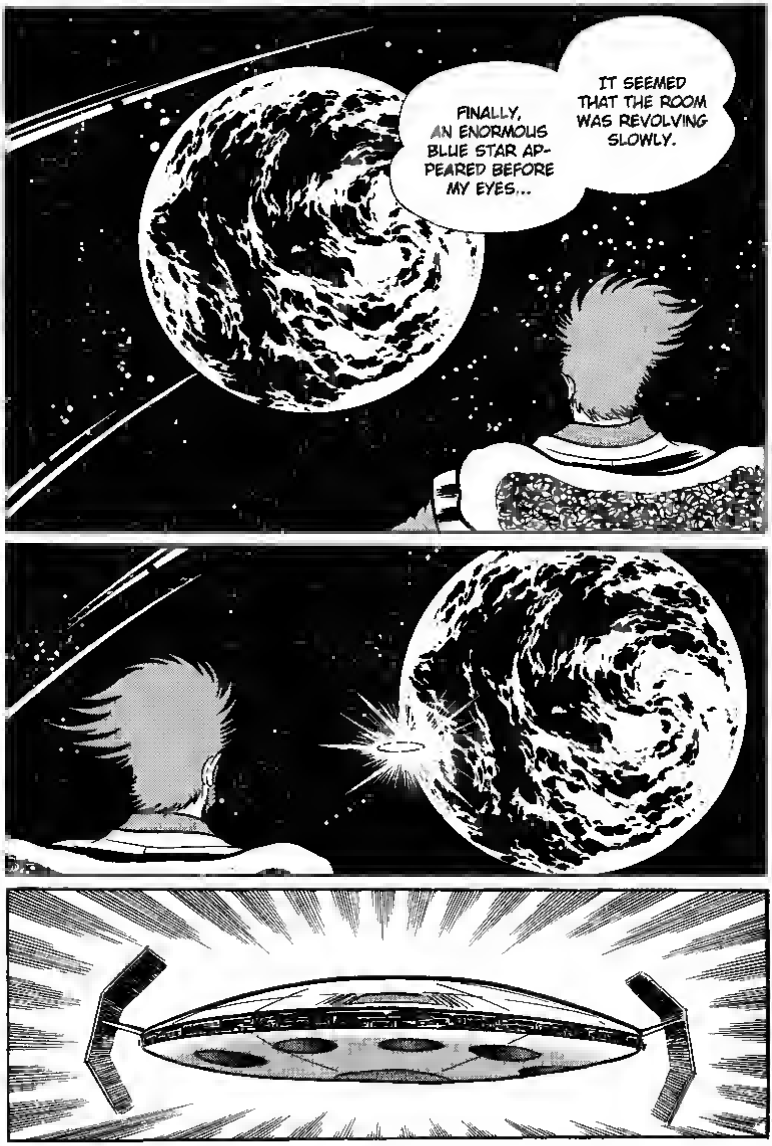
THE NIGHT BEFORE I SET OUT, A GROUP OF SHINOBI AIMING FOR MY SECRET DOCUMENTS ASSAULTED MY HOME...

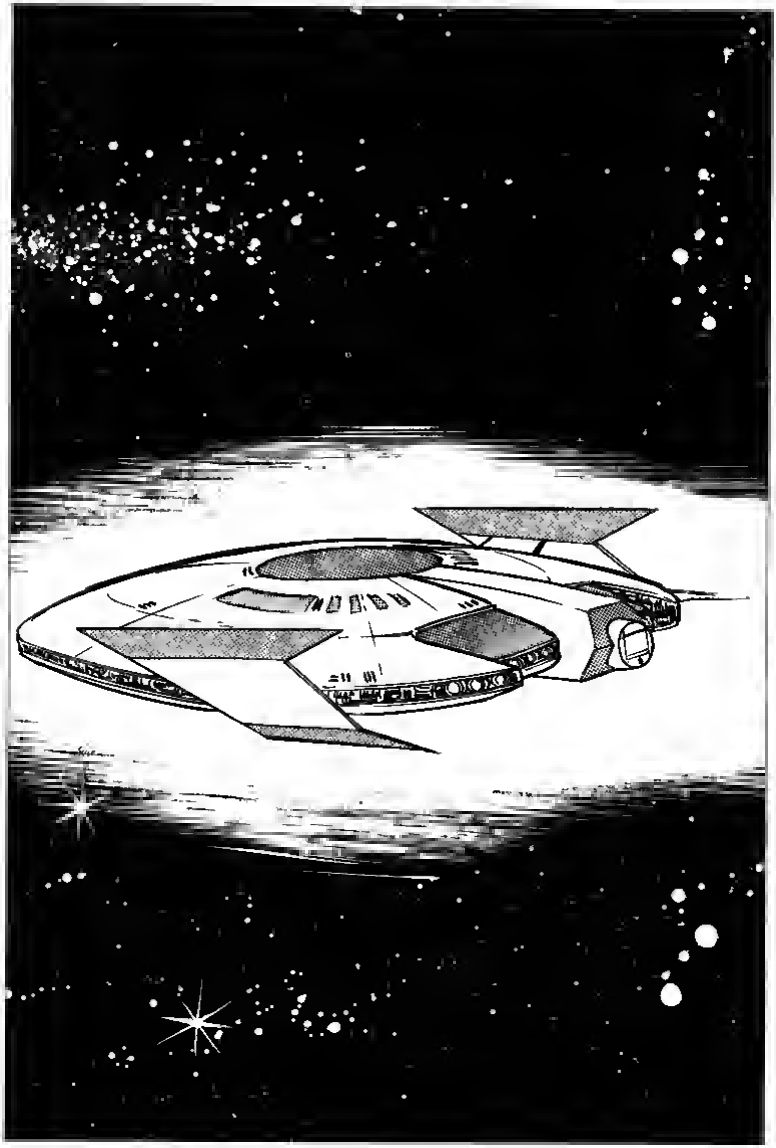

MY WIFE AND CHILD WERE KILLED AND I DIED WITH MY BODY WOUNDED IN TEN PLACES!!
WHEN I RETURNED TO MY SENSES...
I LAY IN A MYSTERIOUS MECHANICAL HOUSE. THEN, I NOTICED...

THEN, I...
THEY WERE BEAU-TIFUL...
THERE... THERE WERE MANY COLORED LIGHTS BLINK-ING ON AND OFF!
MY BODY FELT ODD, SO I LIFTED MY HEAD TO LOOK...
THEY WERE SPEAKING A LANGUAGE I COULD NOT UNDER-STAND...
I REALIZED THAT I WAS SURROUNDED BY UNNATURAL CREATURES
I COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT I SAW IT WAS SOME-THING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE...



I DISCOVERED THAT MY BODY HAD BEEN RE-PLACED WITH SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY!
IT SEEMED TO BE SOME SORT OF MECHANICAL DOLL...
THEN, I LOST CON-SCIOUSNESS AGAIN...
WHEN I NEXT REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, I WAS IN A ROOM WHERE I COULD SEE A WIDE SKY...
I COULD SEE A MYRIAD OF STARS.
STRANGELY, THE STARS WEREN'T TWINKLING...


IT SEEMED THAT THE ROOM WAS REVOLVING SLOWLY.
FINALLY, AN ENORMOUS BLUE STAR APPEARED BEFORE MY EYES...



THAT MAN WAS STILL A YOUNG WARRIOR.
HE SAID THAT HE HAD COME IN THAT QUEER VEHICLE...
AFTER A SHORT TIME, A LONE SAMURAI CAME TO MEET ME
HEE HEE HEE, SIR JINNAI DOUMA, HOW IS THAT NEW BODY OF YOURS...?
SIR JINNAI, YOU DIED ONCE... HOWEVER,
YOU WILL NOT DIE AGAIN. YOU HAVE GAINED AN IMMORTAL BODY.
THERE IS NO LONGER ANYONE IN THE WHOLE OF JAPAN WHO CAN DEFEAT YOU...
IT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH MANY NEW ABILITIES.
THAT BODY IS NOT MERELY DEATHLESS.

DON'T DO SUCH UNNECESSARY THINGS!
IN THAT CASE, THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO SAY.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO RESTORED ME TO LIFE...?
WAIT.
DO YOU HOLD NO HATRED FOR THE NINJA?
THE SHINOBI WHO TOOK UNAWARES AND KILLED YOUR WIFE AND CHILD
WITH MY WIFE AND CHILD MURDERED, I HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE ON ALONE.
IT IS FOR THAT PURPOSE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED AN IMMORTAL BODY.
THEN — KILL! DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE REMAIN.
EVEN IF I KILL THEM, THAT HATRED CAN NEVER BE ASSUAGED ...
I DESPISE THEM!

IT IS SAID THAT MORE THAN A FEW OF THE SHINOBI POSSESS PECULIAR ABILITIES...
HOWEVER..
WITH THAT BODY, THEY CANNOT DEFEAT YOU... KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE REMAIN!
FOR THAT PURPOSE, JINNAI DOUMA, YOU HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO LIFE!
WAIT! WHO ARE YOU!?
AND WHY DO YOU WISH ME TO BECOME A NINJA KILLER?
YOU HOLD A HATRED FOR THE NINJA... AND YOU HAVE SKILL...
YOU'RE QUALIFIED, AREN'T YOU...?
THE OTHER ANSWER IS THAT MY OWN ENEMY IS MIXED IN AMONG THE NINJA!
A TERRIFYING ENEMY WHO WILL LAY ME TO RUIN!

NOBU-
NAGA
ODA!!
MY
NAME
IS...
NOBUNAGA
ODA OF
OWARI...?
NOBU-
NAGA
ODA
...?
THIS
IS JUST
ABOUT ALL
I REMEM-
BER...
WHETHER
OR NOT
THEY'RE
THE SAME
PERSON
...
I DON'T KNOW
I HAVE NOT
BEEN TO OWARI
SINCE THEN...

I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE ME...
I TOLD YOU TO BUY TIME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE.
IT SOUNDS LIKE A STORY OUT OF A DREAM...
MY BODY WILL SOON ERUPT IN AN ENORMOUS EXPLOSION!
HEH HAH HA
WHAT !?
IT WILL BE NO ORDINARY BLAST! THE EXPLOSION OF AN ATOMIC REACTOR IS NOTHIN LIKE YOUR BALLS OF GUNPOWDER! IT WILL BLOW AWAY MOUNTAINS!!
THE POISON CALLED "RADIOACTIVITY" WILL BRING DEATH TO EVERY LIVING THING FOR LEAUGUES AROUND!
YOU WILL DIE ALONG WITH ME !!
MOREOVER...

RUN AWAY! GET AS FAR FROM THIS MOUNTAIN AS YOU CAN!
HEH HEH HEH
!
NOT SO FAST, YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
STAY RIGHT BESIDE ME...

KO-JIROU, SAVE MEEE!
LET GO OF MEEE! UWAA-AHH!!
RATHER THAN THOUGHTLESSLY STRUGGLING TO ESCAPE ME, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO DIE PEACEFULLY!
EVERYTHING NEARBY WILL MELT TOGETHER IN AN INSTANT— HEH HAH HA
KOJIROU, YOU WON'T GET AWAY EITHER!
WAH HAH HAH HA
AH!

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
A HEAD... IT'S A TRAINER'S HEAD!
WAAAHH!?

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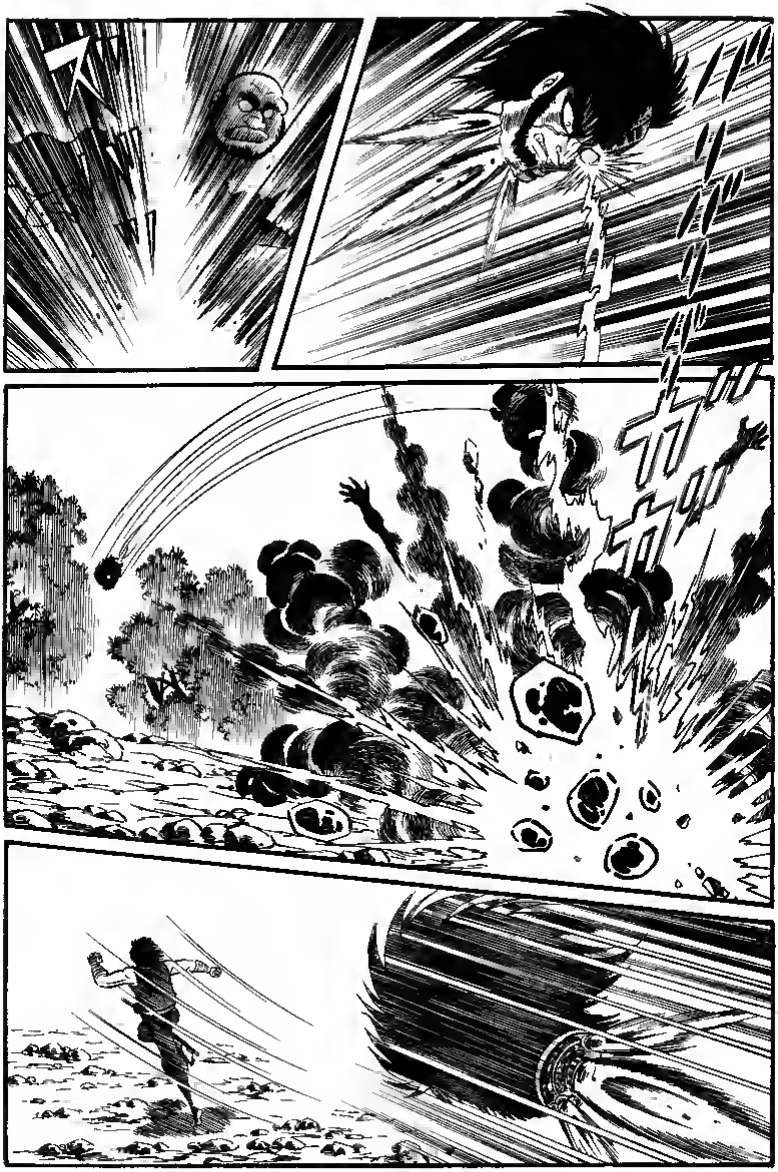
HAAH
HAHH
UH!
U WA AA HH !!



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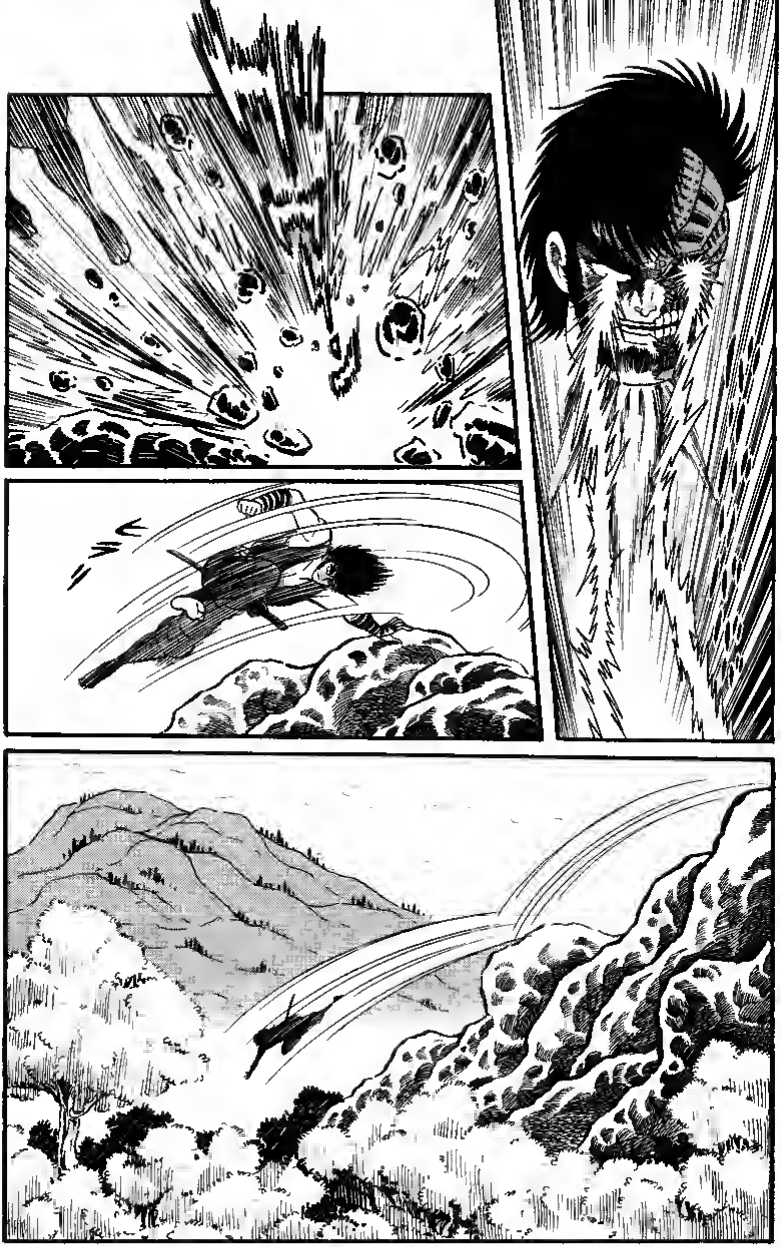
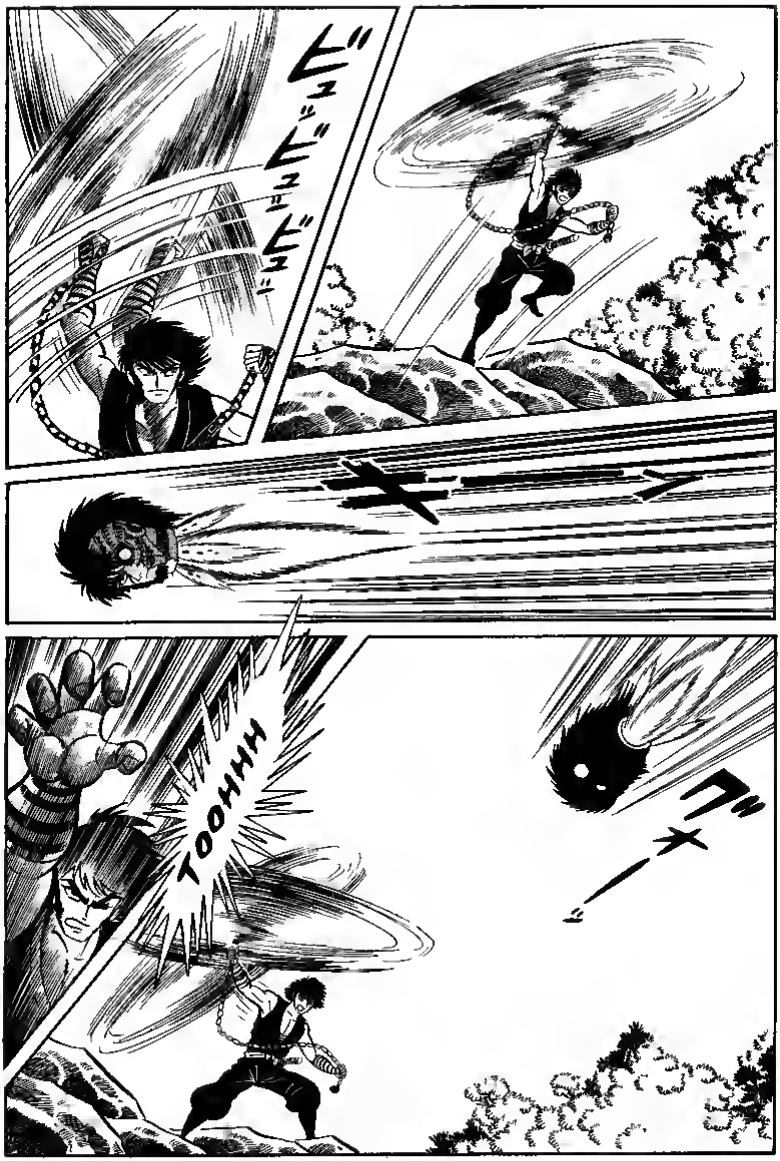
SHIT! WHAT IS THIS GUY? EVEN WITHOUT A HEAD, HE WON'T LET GO OF ME.
KOJIROU, YOU WILL DIE AS WELL!



HAAH HAHH
HAAH HAHH
...
JUST WATCH
SHIT. THAT DAMNED MONSTER. I WOULDN'T BE KOJIROU RYUUZUKI IF I GOT TAKEN OUT LIKE THIS

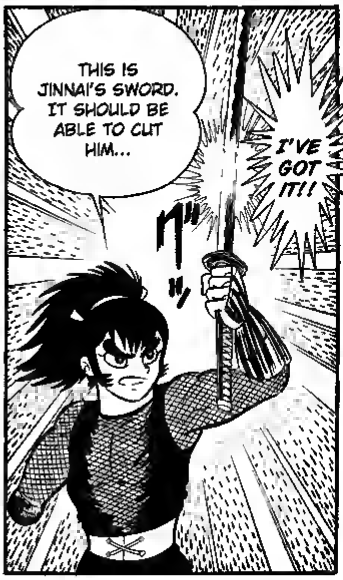

ビュッビュッビュッ
TOOHHH
ゲッ

KU-!
GRR-RR..
HEH HEH HEH HEH..

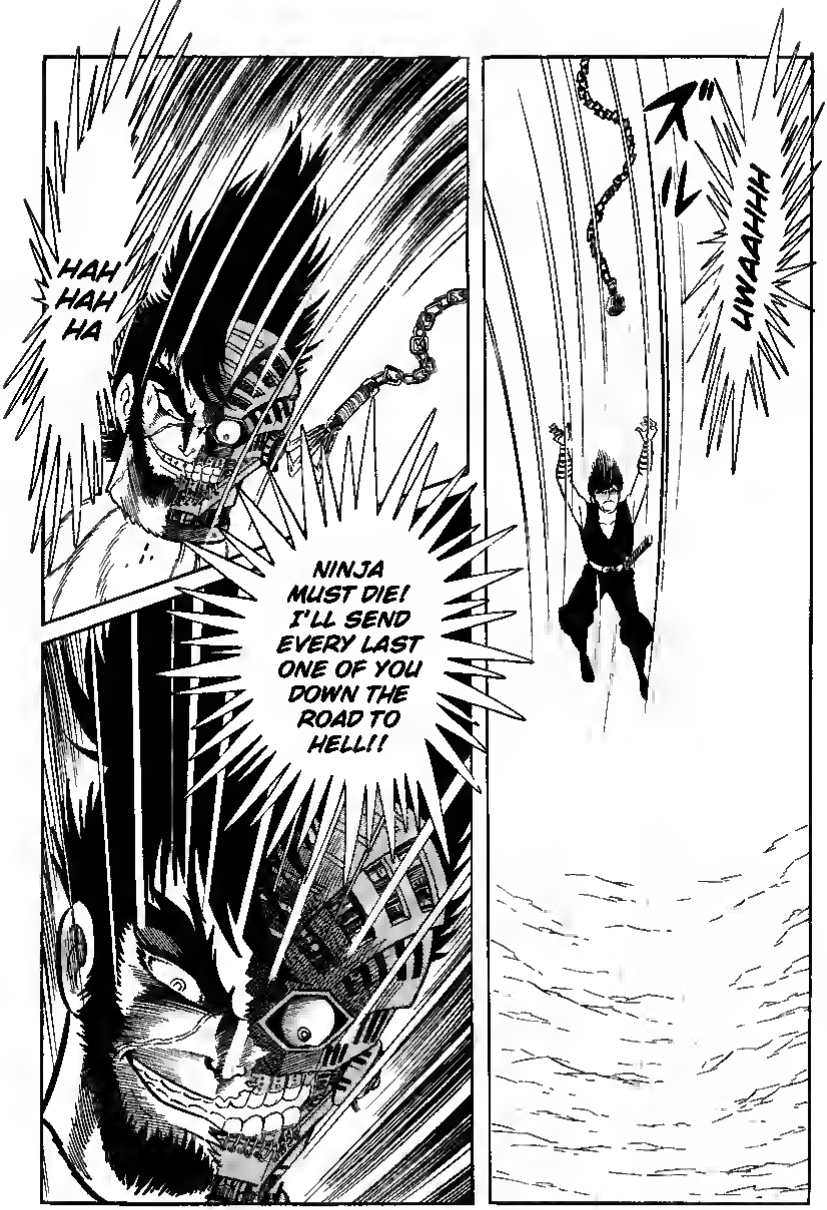
SHIT...
I HAVE TO FINISH HIM OFF SOMEHOW...
AL-RIGHT.
I'LL TRY THIS.
EIH!
UWAAAAHH!!

I DID IT!
NICE STR-IKE!
GA AA AH H!
ガキャ
ゴオ

YOU MONSTER, I'LL PUT AN END TO YOUR LIFE WITH YOUR OWN SWORD!

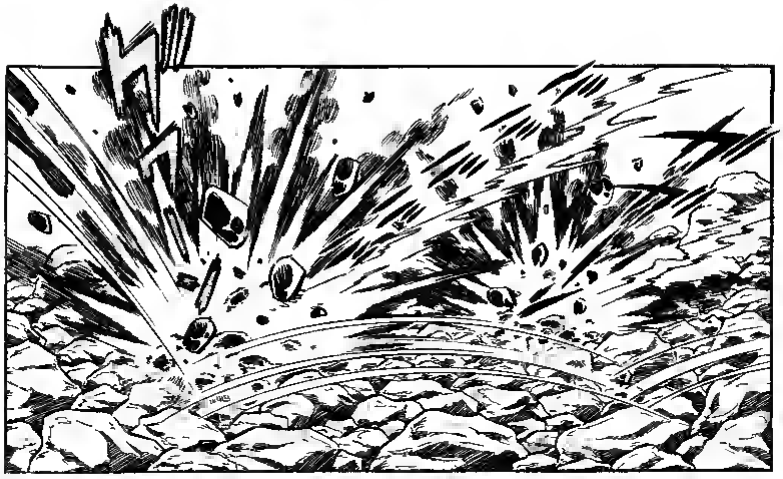

THIS IS JINNAI'S SWORD. IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO CUT HIM...
I'VE GOT IT!!

WAH HAH HAH HA
HOW IS IT, KOJIROU? FLYING THROUGH THE SKY MUST FEEL EXCEPTIONAL!
UH... UUHHH


HAH HAH HA
NINJA MUST DIE! I'LL SEND EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU DOWN THE ROAD TO HELL!!
UWAAHHH

UH...
THIS IS...

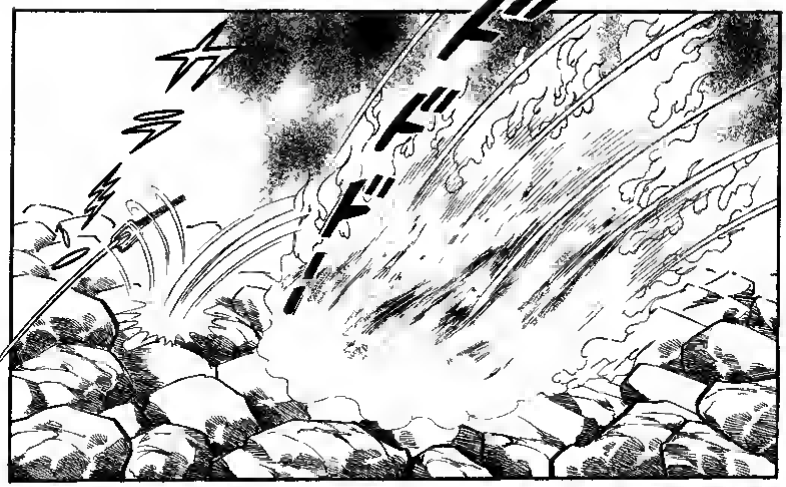
GA GA GA...
GA GA
WAH!



I CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM..

TCH... WHAT A SWORD..!!

HE'S BURN-ING...
JIN-NAI'S BODY IS BURN-ING!
THE BODY THAT DIDN'T BURN, EVEN IN A SEA OF OIL..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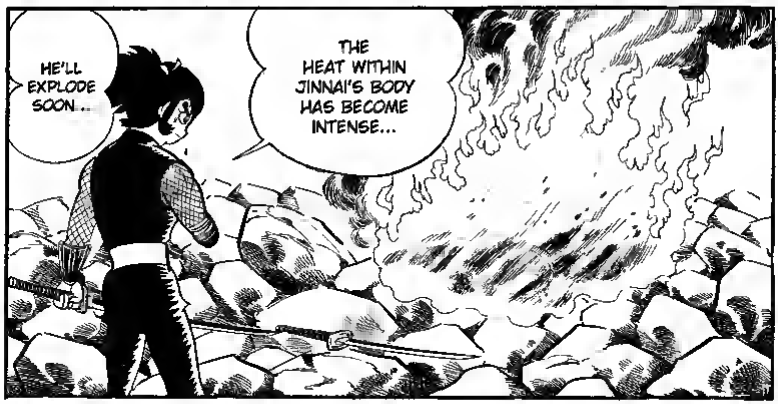
HE'LL EXPLODE SOON...
THE HEAT WITHIN JINNAI'S BODY HAS BECOME INTENSE...

THAT'S RIGHT, IF I HAVE THIS SWORD...

YOU MONSTER! I'LL PUT AN END TO YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOOWWW.
I CAN FINISH OFF JINNAI'S HEAD!
ゴオーッ
DIIEEE, CHILD OF KOUGA!

HMPH... SHISHIMARU, YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE...
YOUR OPPONENT IS ME, SHI-SHIMARU TENOU!!
SO, YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM MY BODY?
UWAAHH!
WAIT, JINNAI !!
ビビビビ
VERY WELL !!
JUST AS YOU WISH, I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT!!
TETETETEX!

OH !!
THAT SWORD !?
ピタッ
GO TO HELL, JINNAI !!
AFTER GOING TO THE OTHER WORLD ONCE, YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK TO THIS ONE!!
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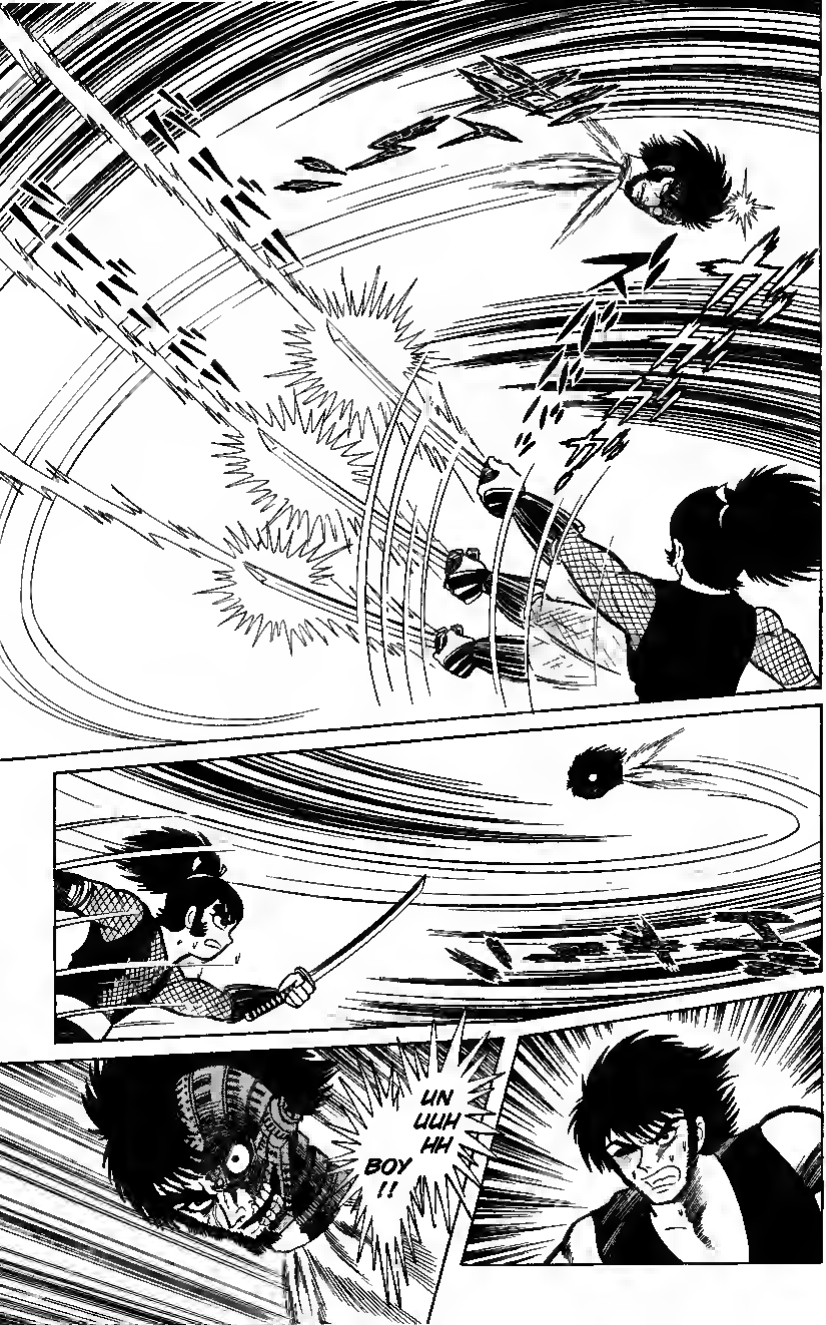
ズキ


UN
UUH
HH
BOY
!!

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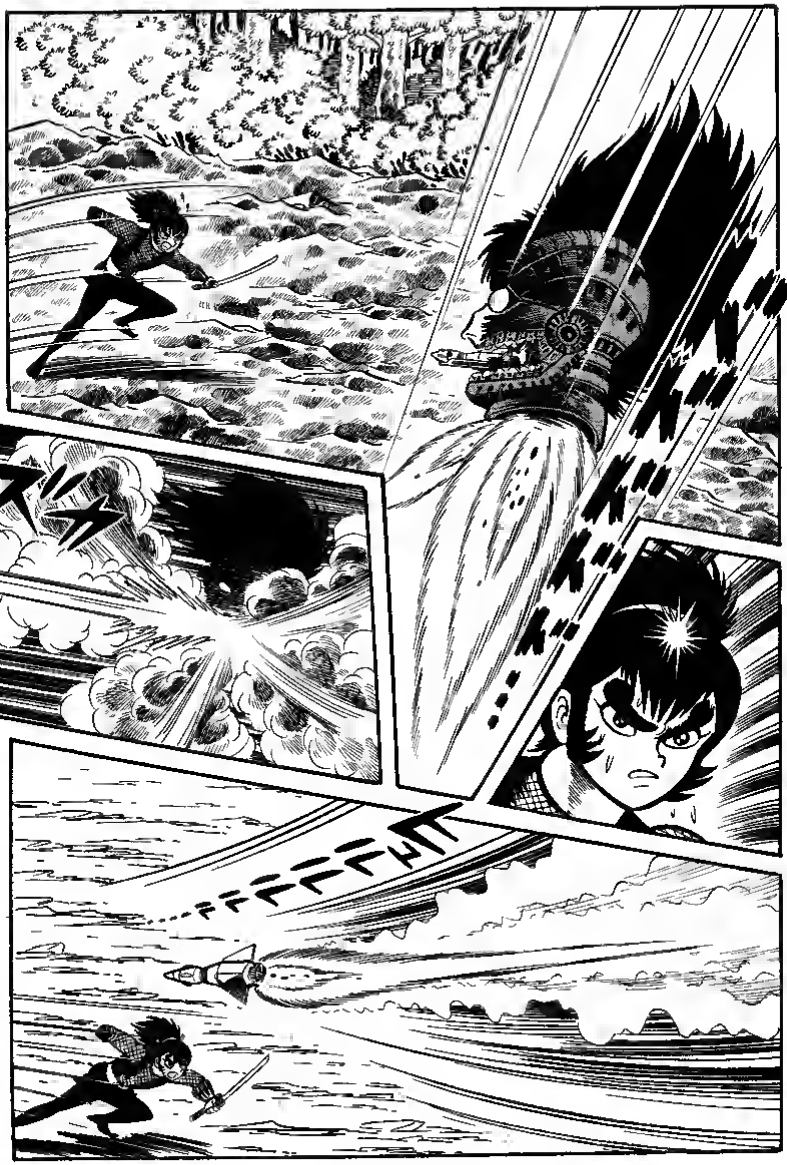
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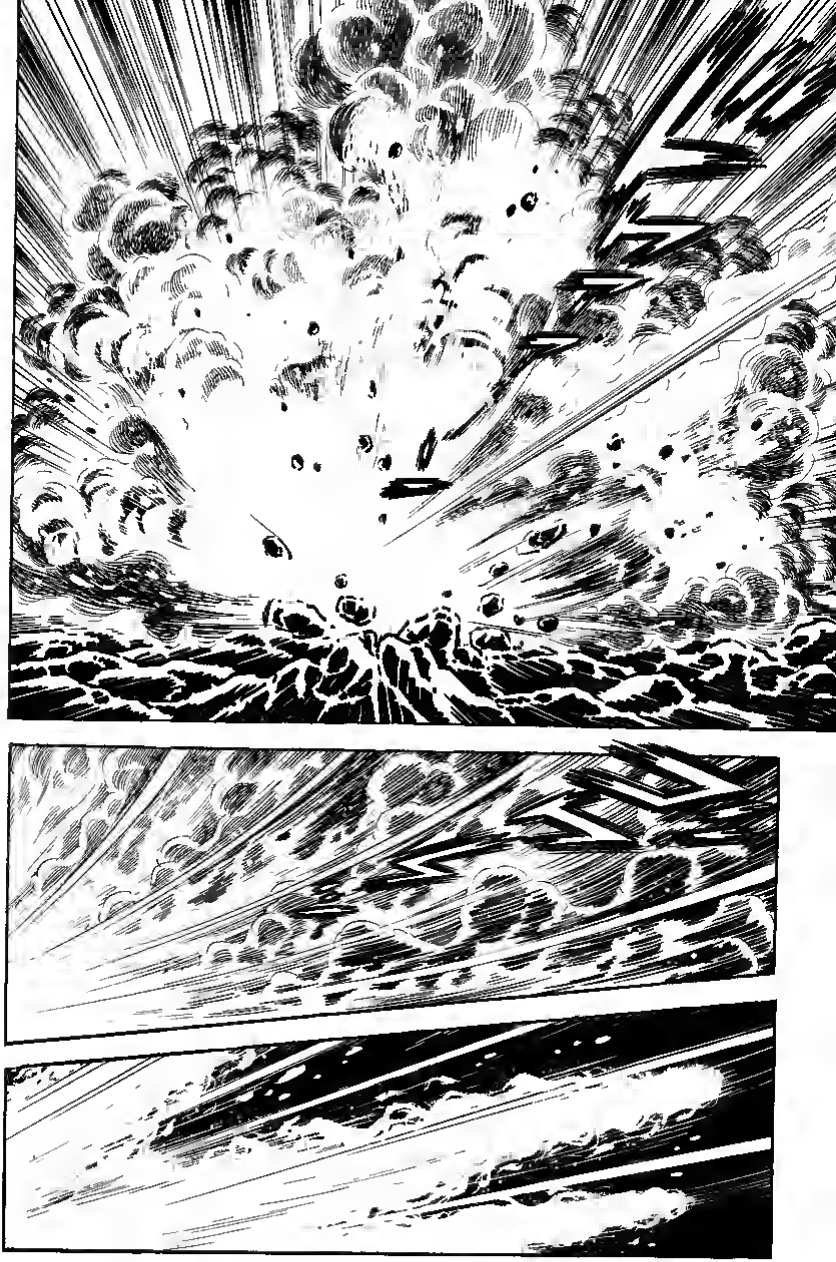
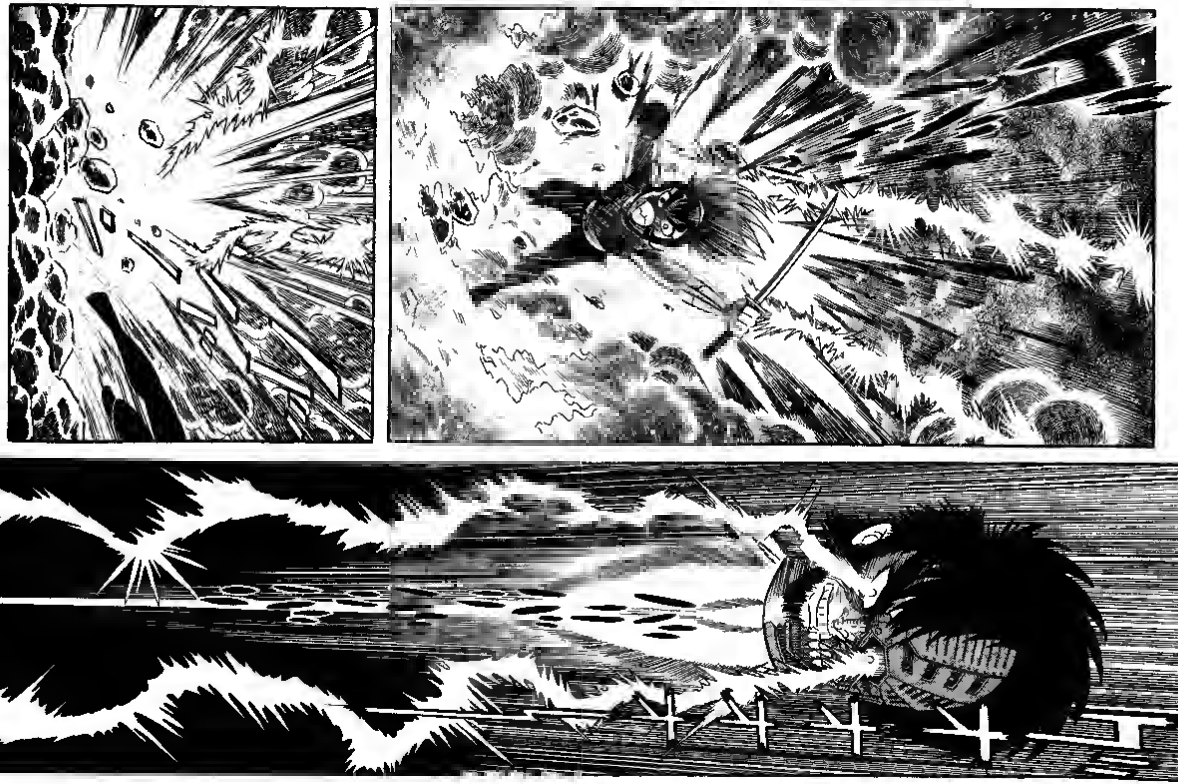


UWAAH
WAH HAH HAH HAH
SHISHIMARU, WILL YOU DIE AMID A SEA OF NAPALM FLAMES? OR...
WILL YOU PERISH BEFORE MY LIGHT-RAY CANNON!? MAKE YOUR CHOICE!

SHISHIMARU!! I'LL TAKE MY TIME WATCHING THE WAY YOU DIE!

DO YOU THINK I'LL LET MYSELF BE KILLED BY THE LIKES OF YOU!?
KEEP TALKING, JINNAI!
WAH HAH HAH HA
ゴボンゴボン



WAH HAH HAH HA

WAH HAH HAH
SHIT I WON'T LET MY-SELF BE KILLED!
I'M NOT DEAD YET!
UH, UUH ...
AH! KOJI-ROU.

ゴゴゴウウウン
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR LEG IS BROKEN...
HANG ON...
カカ
ズズ

I'M GOING TO TRY TO SHOOT HIM DOWN!
ALRIGHT, GET AWAY FROM HERE
YEAH. SOME-HOW...
KOJIROU, ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?
I WON'T LOSE, JINNAI...
グオーン

THE SMOKE IS STINGING MY EYES ...
KUH!

NUOOOHH

GO TO HELL, SHISHI-MARU!

UW
AH!

I DID IT!
I GOT HIM. JINNAI.
I KILLED JINNAI!
KO-JIROU!
WELL DONE, SHISHI-MARU.
MAGNIFI-CENT...
BUT WE CAN'T BE SAVED.
JINNAI'S BODY WILL EXPLODE !!
YOU IDIOT!! IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO GIVE UP!
WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, NEVER GIVE UP!

KOJIROU, LET'S GET AS FAR AWAY AS WE CAN!
IF THERE'S EVEN A ONE-IN-TEN-THOUSAND CHANCE THAT WE'LL LIVE, LET'S GAMBLE ON IT.
YOU'RE PRETTY AMAZING FOR A KID.
I UNDER-STAND. LET'S DO EVERY-THING WE CAN!

RIGHT!
ROLL TO PUT OUT THE FIRE!
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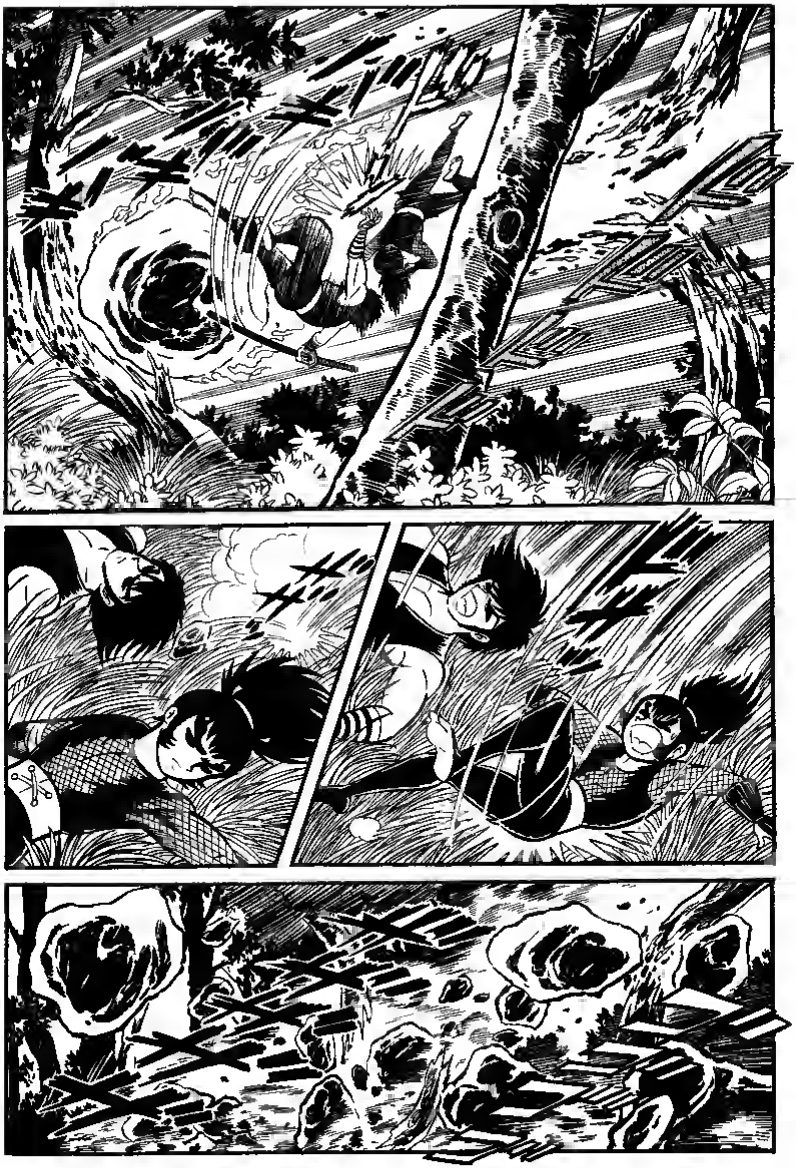

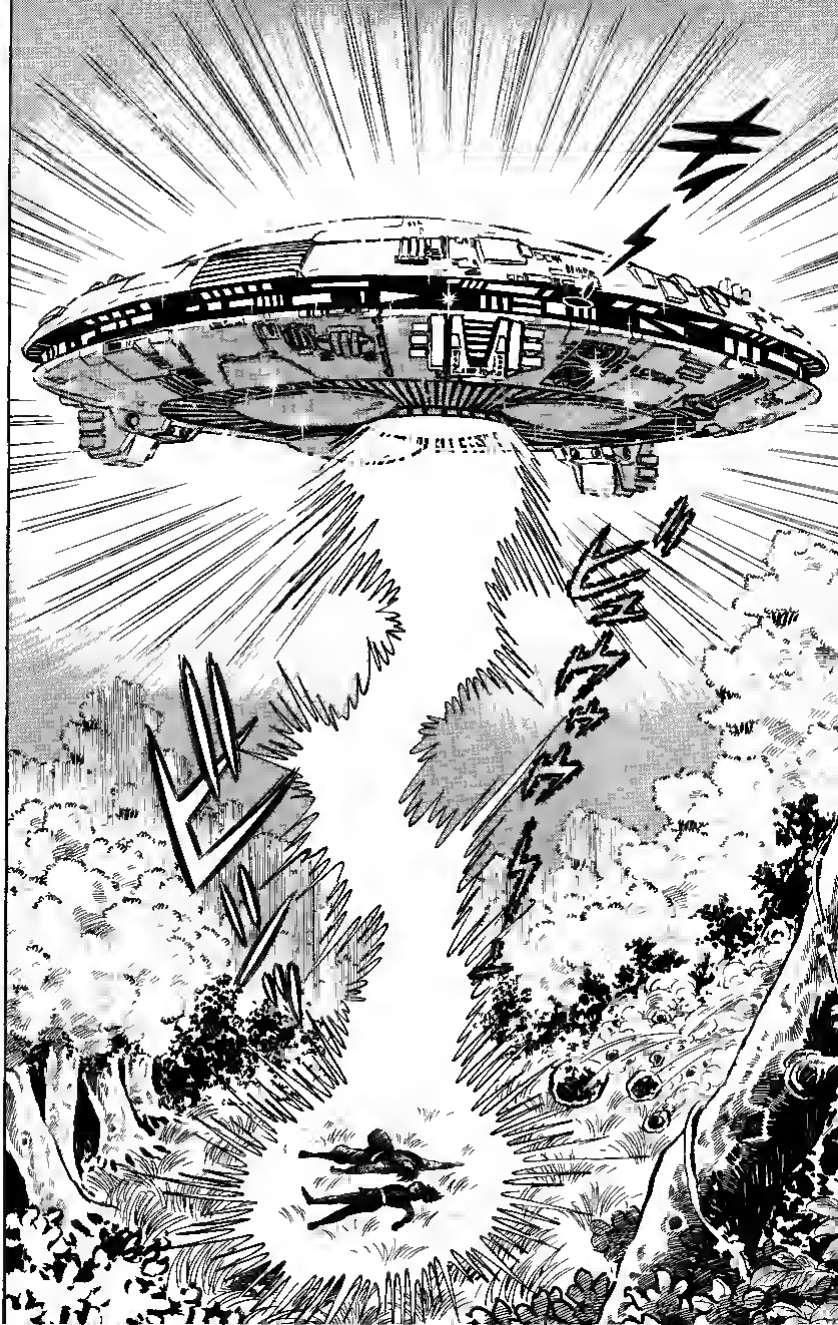

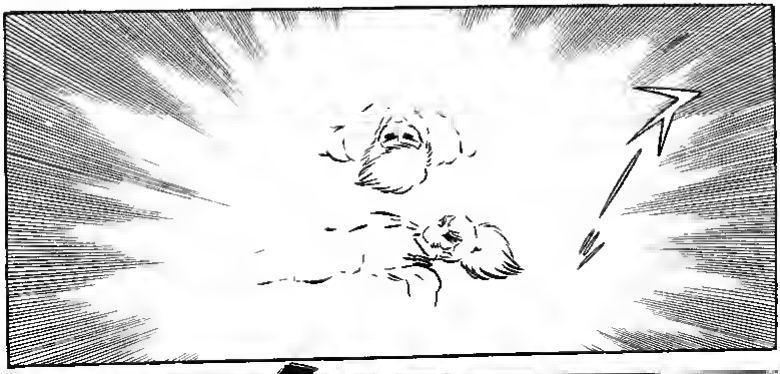

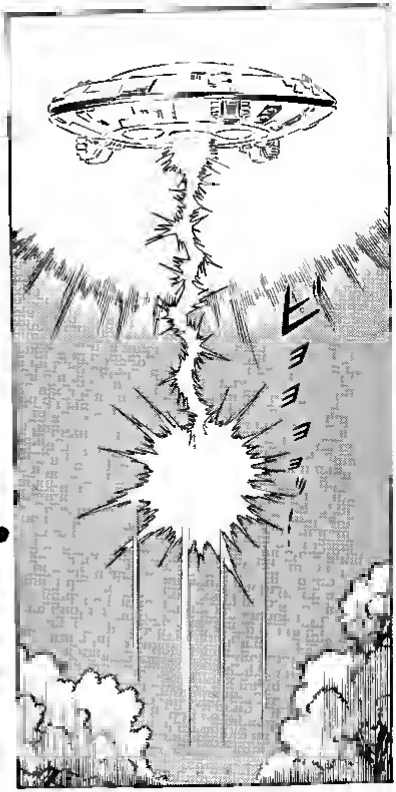
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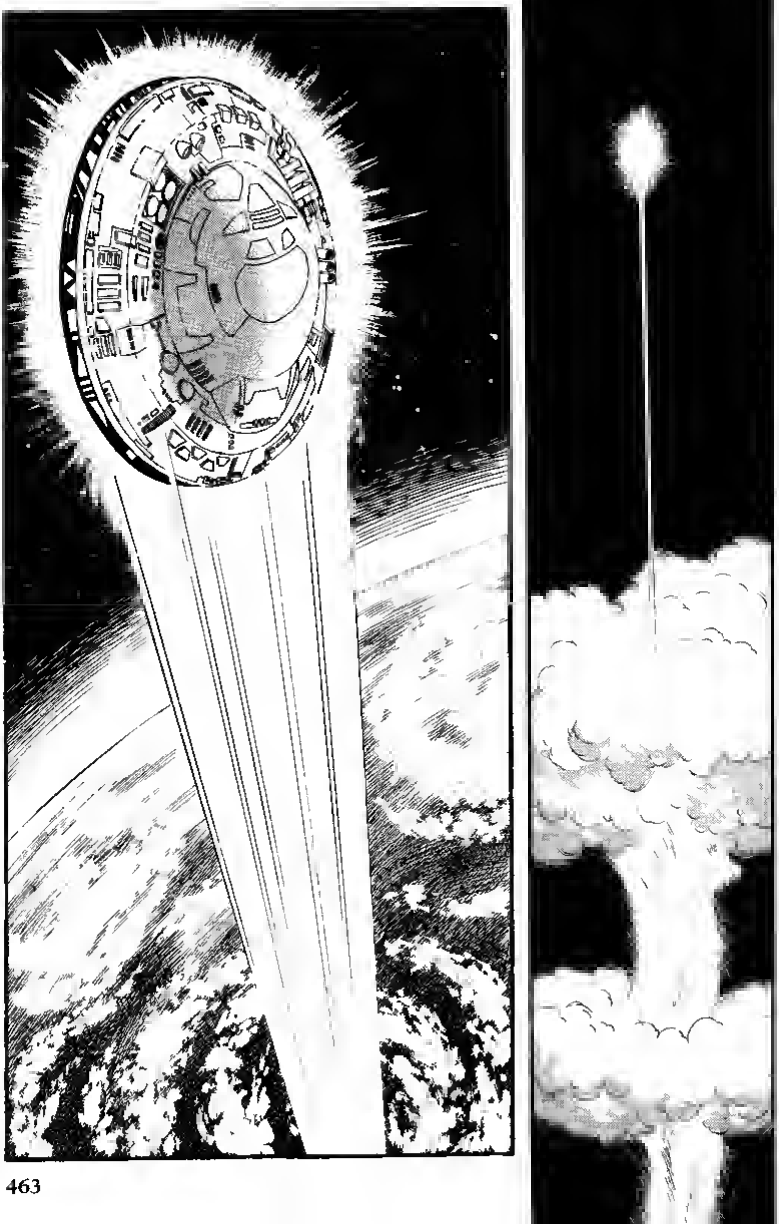

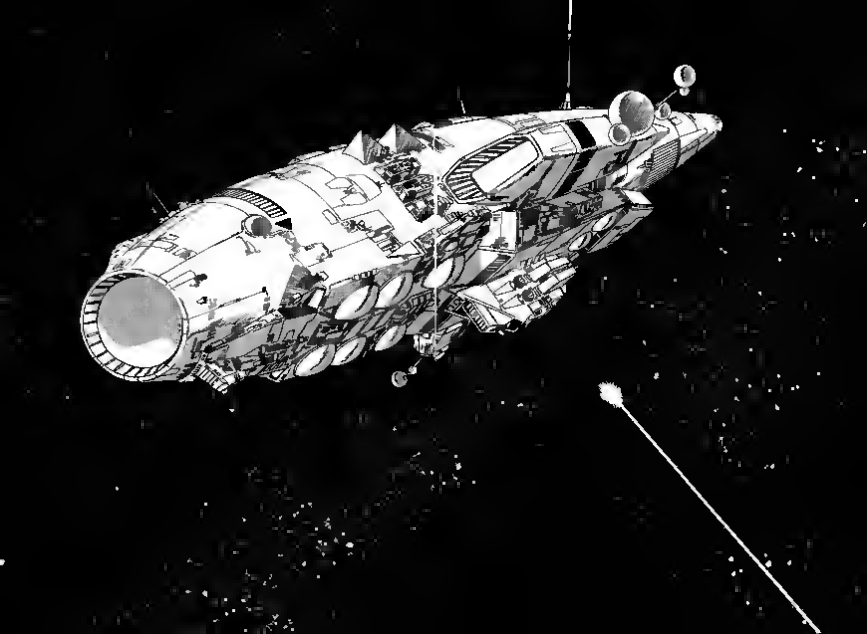

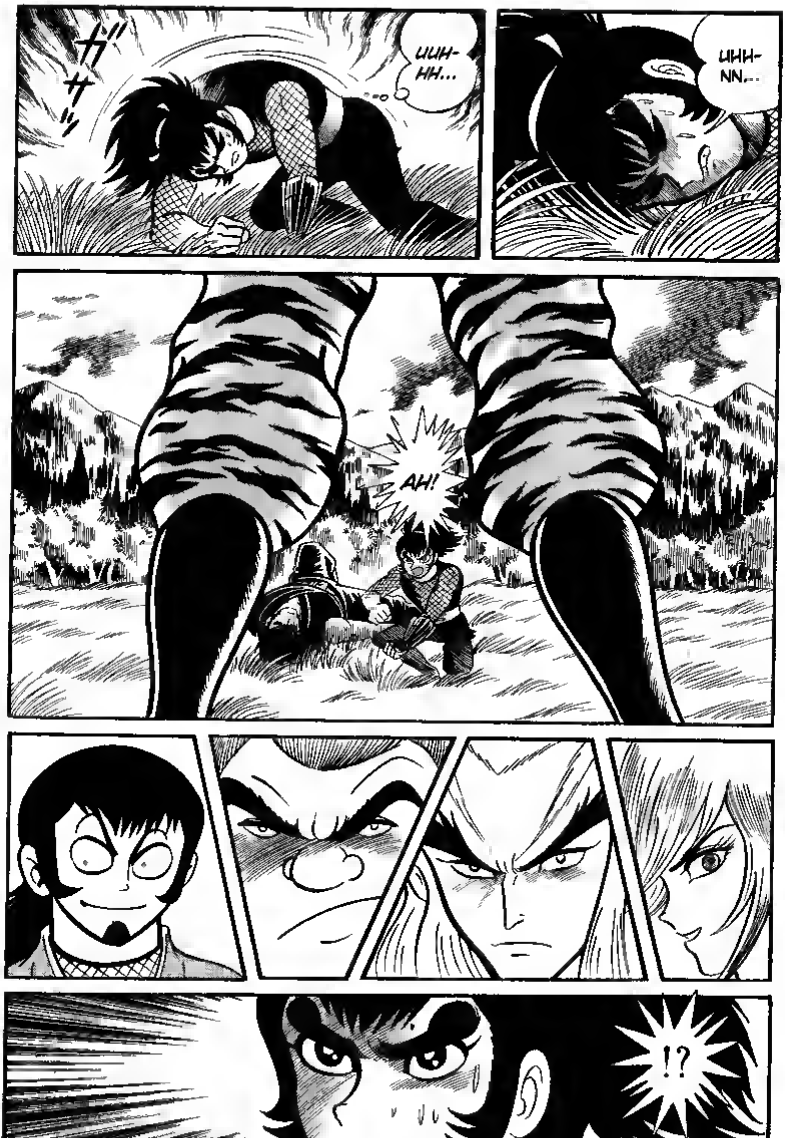
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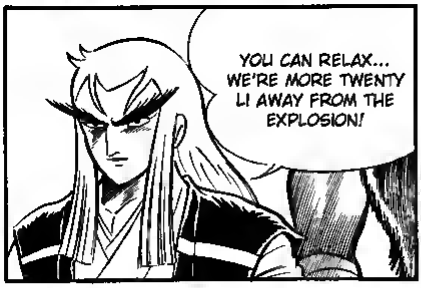
UUH-HH...
UHH-NN...
AH!
!?

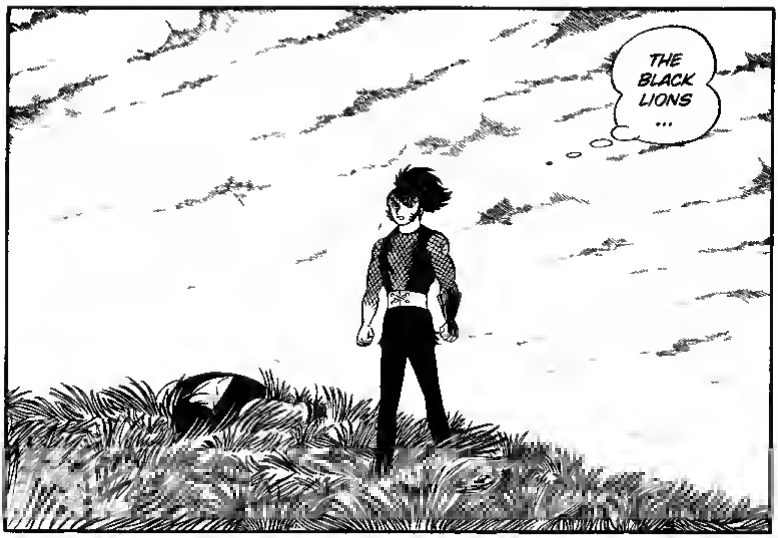

YOU CAN RELAX... WE'RE MORE TWENTY LI AWAY FROM THE EXPLOSION!

AND WHERE IS THIS PLACE ..?
WHO ARE YOU ...?

HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE THING I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER...
IT DOESN'T MATTER, THE TIME WHEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IS COMING.
HOW ON EARTH ...?
WHAT, TWENTY LI...?
WE ARE YOUR ALLIES...
WE HAVE COME TO LEND YOU OUR STRENGTH.
AND YOU MUST FOLLOW YOUR FATHER'S WILL
AND DEFEAT A FEARSOME FOE...
MY FATHER!?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT MY FATHER
THE CHIEF IS MY ...?
GRAND FATHER!?
THAT MAN IS YOUR GRANDFATHER, SO HE SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING!
IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD ASK SANDAYUU MOCHI...

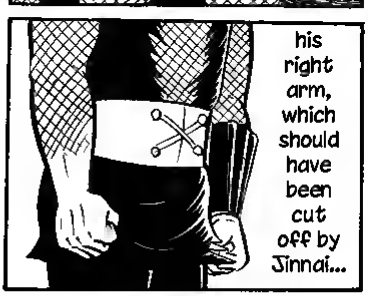
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT TIME. FAREWELL, SHISHIMARU!
YOU MUST DEFEAT OUR MUTUAL FOE...
WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE WILL APPEAR BEFORE YOU ONCE MORE.
WHO ARE YOU!?
WAIT! PLEASE WAIT.

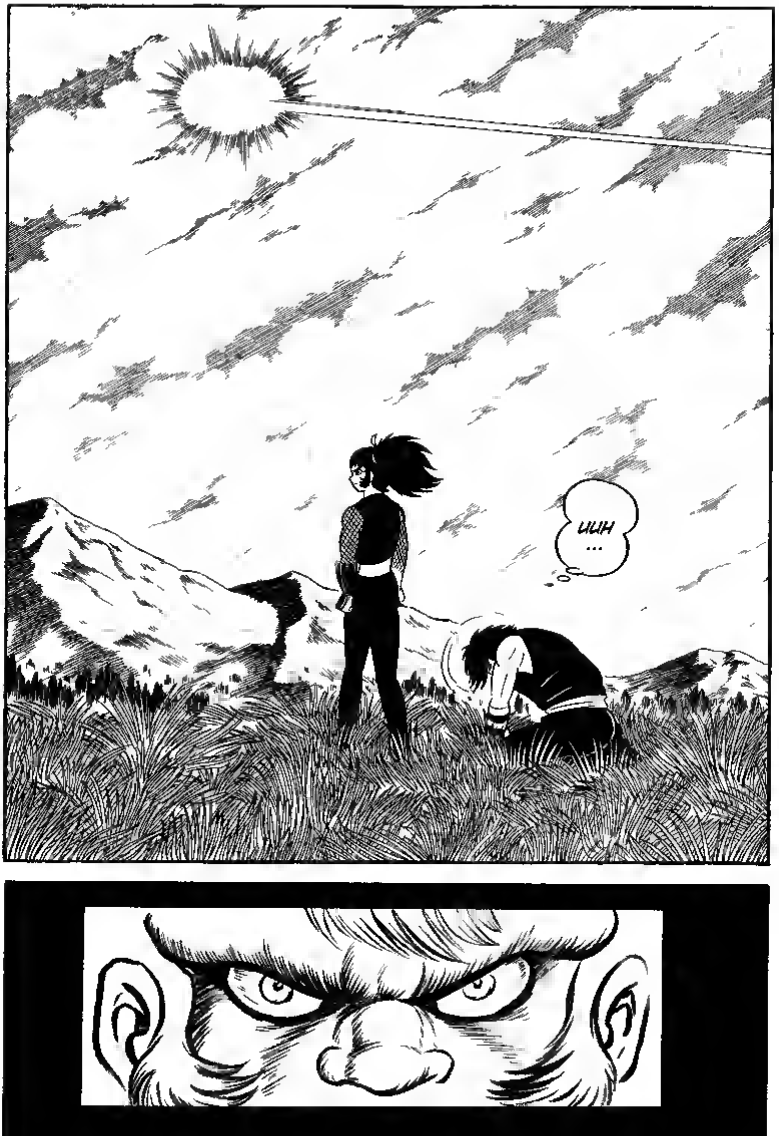
THE BLACK LIONS ...
HE CALL US...
WE ARE PATRIOTS DEDICATED TO VANQUISHING THE SAME ENEMY!
HEH HEH HEH .. WE ARE WARRIORS COME FROM THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE! AND...


THE BLACK LIONS ...

or the shining saucer above his head...

At that time, Shishi-maru had not yet no-ticed ...


his right arm, which should have been cut off by Jinnai...


UUH
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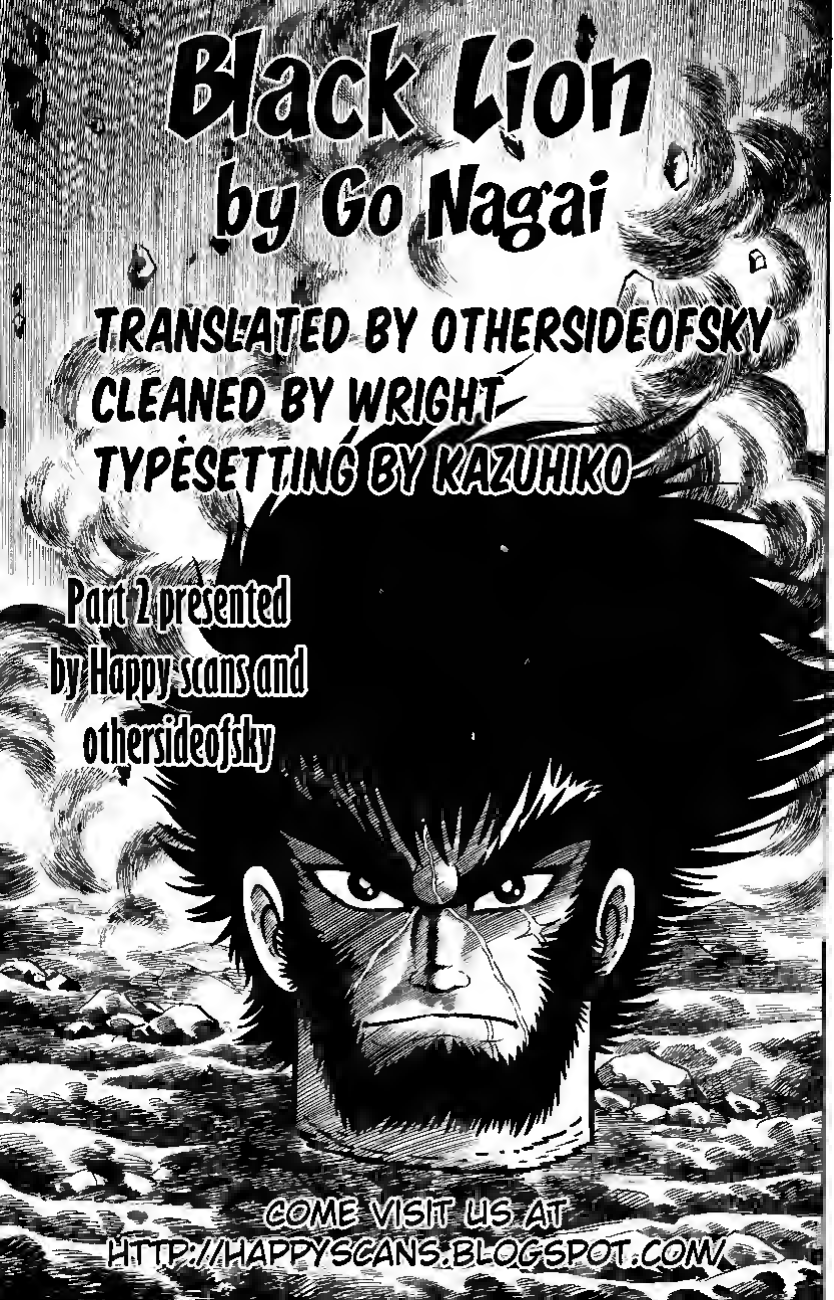
Black Lion
by Go Nagai
TRANSLATED BY OTHERSIDEOFSKY
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY KAZUHIKO
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